Sorata

6

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tactics 6

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Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

6

KANRARINYUUDOU STAGE 5

PART III

RIN STAGE 59

SIDE STORY I 97

SIDE STORY II 121

SIDE STORY III 141

KYOTO-WORSHIPPING CHRONICLE II 164

MEMOIRS OF A DEMON-EATING TENGU: THE FUJI TALES

tactics

Volume 6
by Sakura Kinoshita and
Kazuko Higashiyama

tactics Volume 6

Art & Story by Sakura Kinoshita x Kazuko Higashiyama

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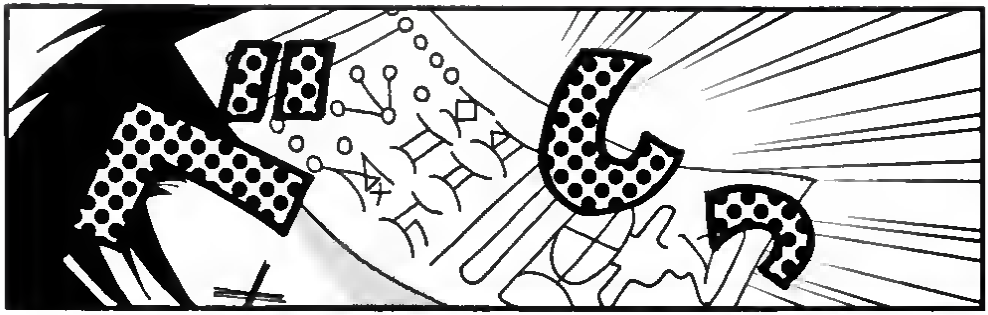
WE'RE SCREWED!
HAA
HAA
I HAVE TO SEAL THESE DEMONS' MOVEMENTS...
...AND CLOSE THE KIMON!
氷の印 第四の太刀 風

DEMON-EATING TENGU
SHINOBUYO FUJI SOUSHI
KANBARINYUUDOU
STAGE

tactics

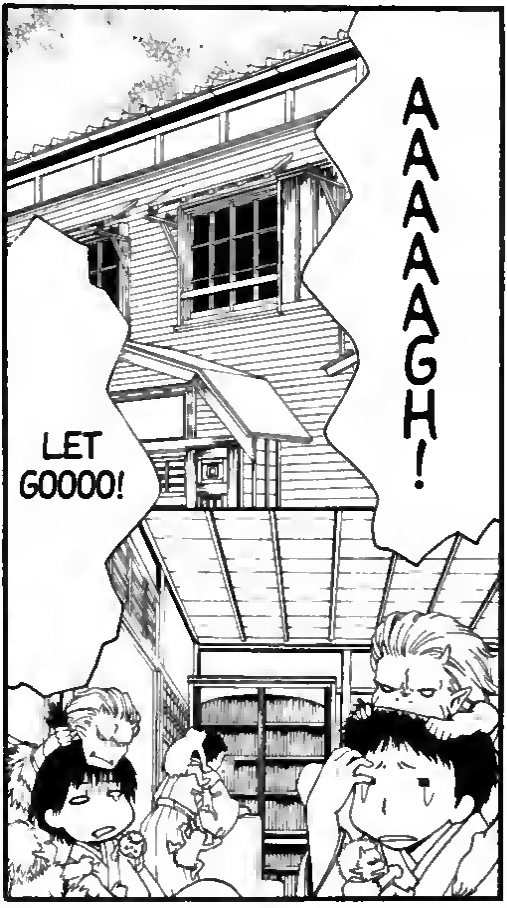
HANDS OFF THE MERCHANDISE!
OW!
HUH?!
WHAT'S GOING ON, ICHINOMIYA?! DOES THE KIMON HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS?!
AND WHERE DID THAT MAN GO?! GASP!
I'M NOT MUCH HELP HERE, UNFORTUNATELY.
I BARELY MANAGED TO PUT UP A BARRIER.



!
!!
SHUT UP HASUMI

……

FIRST THE KANA-SHIBARI, AND NOW DEMONS?!
WHERE THE HELL IS KAN-CHAN?!


AAAAGH!
LET GOOOO!

I'LL GO CHECK ON ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI AND THE OTHERS!

ACK!
WEIRD. HOW COME SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STILL MOVE?
MEOW!
HUH?
WAIT, AYAME-CHAN!
HOW THE HELL DID IT GET IN HERE?
D-DAMMIT-- THAT STUPID BLACK CAT SCARED ME.

HA HA HA! YOU'RE A SCREAM, HARUKA-SAN.

?!
COME...
...LIGHTNING!

tactics 6

NOT EVEN I COULD HAVE SURVIVED A DIRECT HIT FROM THAT.
?!
RRGH...
NOW THEY'RE WEAK AND YOU'RE NOT AIMING.
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT.

LOOKING AWAY IS RUDE, YOU KNOW.
GRIP
PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
HGGH!
...ARE ABSOLUTELY ABHORRED IN MY COUNTRY.
?!

THE BARRIER'S BREAKING DOWN!
DAMMIT.
...BUT I CAN'T STOP THE DEMONS.
HUFF HUFF
I KNEW IT. I HAVE TO SEAL THE KIMON...
!
IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?!

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN IN HERE? EVERYONE LOOKS UNWELL.
YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T SEE THE DE-MONS?!
STAY BACK, AYAME-CHAN!
THIS PLACE IS IN RUINS!
AYAME-CHAN?!
HUH...?

WHY AREN'T THE DEMONS GOING NEAR HER?!
UNLESS ...
...THEY CAN'T GO NEAR HER?
BCR
EEP! WHAT'S THE CAT DOING HERE?!

MEOW
NO!
AAAAAH!
?!
WHAT'S GOING ON, LADIES?! HELLO?!
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL IS-
.....!

GWAAAH!
THE BARRIER!

WELL, WELL, WELL...
ぱちっ
IT'S DOWN!
THE DEMON BOSS, AS IT WERE.
IT SEEMS THE BIG-SHOT'S SHOWN UP OVER THERE.
3 MINUTE
WHAT DO YOU THINK, HARUKA-SAN?
HEH HEH...
SINCE KANTAROU-SAN ISN'T ANY GOOD WITH DEMONS, THIS MAY BE THE END OF HIM.

GASP!
MAYBE AN EVENING SHOWER...
HM? IT WAS CLEAR SKIES UNTIL JUST NOW
IMPOSSIBLE!

主審
……ARCADI
バキ
バキ

THAT LIGHTNING EARLIER WASN'T AIMED AT ME AT ALL. YOU WERE TARGETING THE DEMON OF THE PRIVY.
NOW I GET IT.
WERE YOU ABLE TO CONCENTRATE BECAUSE OF YOUR BROKEN ARM? I SUPPOSE THAT KIND OF PAIN CAN BRING UNUSUAL FOCUS.
BUT IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIRE LIGHTNING ON A SMALL TARGET.
DON'T EXPECT ME TO THANK YOU.

YOU'RE WRONG.
カラン
YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO ME FROM THE START
KANTAROU-SAN IS BLESSED TO HAVE SUCH A LOYAL BOY AS YOU.
I LET YOU HAVE THE ARM.

THIS WOULDN'T BE FAIR IF I TOOK YOU ON WITH NO HANDICAP.
?
NOW...
THE MAJOR GENERAL TOLD ME NOT TO HARM YOU...
WHISPER
...BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR FOR HIM TO HAVE ALL THE FUN
WHISPER
I...DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO REACT TO THAT.
EXCELLENT. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS.

COME AT ME, DEMON-EATING TENGU!
WE CAN SETTLE THIS ALL BY OUR-SELVES!

THAT'S HOW YOU APPLY AN IMMOBILITY KANASHIBARI.
—!?

PAY ATTENTION, BECAUSE THERE'S GOING TO BE A QUIZ.
THAT'S NOT FAIR, KANTAROU-SAN!
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
A FIGHT TAKES MORE THAN STRENGTH.
ドカ!!

YOU NEED POWER ...
...AND TACTICS.
HARUKA! YOUR RIGHT ARM!
OW-- DON'T TOUCH ME!
LEAVE IT ALONE. DID YOU SEAL THE KIMON?
OW OW OW!
NOT YET.
I WAS TOO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, HARUKA! YOUR PRECIOUS ARM IS ALL--
A A A
G H!
I said not to touch it!
?!
THUD

WAIT. THIS FEELS LIKE...
UM... I'LL SEE WHAT THAT THUD WAS.

THEN I GUESS KAN-CHAN DID THE SEAL. PHEW!
へたぁ
IT WAS ABOUT DAMN TIME.
THE DEMONS DISAP-PEARED...
HUH...?

!
WHO...ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT ROSALIE-CHAN, ARE YOU?
.....

THAT ENGLISHMAN IS A PAIN LETTING HIM GO BALLISTIC LIKE THAT...
UH...RIGHT, ROSALIE OR WHOEVER.
THANKS FOR SEALING THE KIMON.
FORGET IT.
IT WASN'T MY STRENGTH ALONE THAT DID IT.
!
すう
MM...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
GOOD THING.
AND IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I DID IT TO SAVE YOU
WELL...
...THEN WHO DID YOU SAVE?

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THAT.
THE SORCERY OF THE WAY OF YIN AND YANG...
THE SEALING OF THE KIMON...

MEOW!
すたっ
むくり

I DON'T SENSE ANYONE ANYMORE
WITH MY AUTOMATIC_IF THAT SPIRITUAL BODY COULD GET IN, THEN IT MEANS THE POWER HASN'T WEAKENED YET.

YOU BASTARD! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

BUT THAT PRESENCE MUST INTEREST YOU.

RIGHT, HARUKA-SAN?

...Coy

GOING OUT ON YOUR OWN WAS DOWNRIGHT NAUGHTY EDWARDS
I WOULDN'T RESIST IF I WERE YOU.
THE PUNISH-MENT'S PRETTY HARSH FOR HARMING A GUEST OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU, MY SUPERIORS WOULD HAVE MY HIDE.

MISTER EDWARDS..
HASTY BEHAVIOR INVITES DISASTER
VISITING THE HASUMI HOUSEHOLD WAS, INDEED, THE ORIGINAL PLAN. BUT THIS TURN OF EVENTS HAS RUN THE RISK OF NEGATING ALL PROGRESS--ALTHOUGH THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE LACK OF FORWARD PROGRESS HAS BEEN THE INCORRECT FORECAST OF THE WEATHER OF THIS AREA
BLAH
BLAH
THE UNPREDICTED OUTDOOR CONDITIONS HAVE PROVEN TO BE A SIGNIFICANT SETBACK. BUT IN ADDITION TO THAT, IF ONE WERE TO COMPARE ALL THIS TO MY INITIAL PLAN BLUEPRINTS, AT LEAST SEVEN OR MORE ERRORS WOULD BE DISCOVERED. I ADMIT TO THIS, AS I IMAGINE ANYONE INVOLVED WOULD WITH THAT IN MIND, I MUST ADMIT THAT 78% RATE OF FAILURE
BLAH
DAMMIT--YOU MADE WATANABE OPEN HIS MOUTH AGAIN!
I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST SO CURIOUS...
...THAT I COULDN'T RESIST A LITTLE TASTE.
ANYWAY, YOU'RE COMING WITH US--YOU PLAYING WITH THE TENGU WILL ONLY MAKE YOU-KNOW-WHO JEALOUS
AND I'VE GOT ENOUGH CRAP ON MY PLATE NOW THANKS

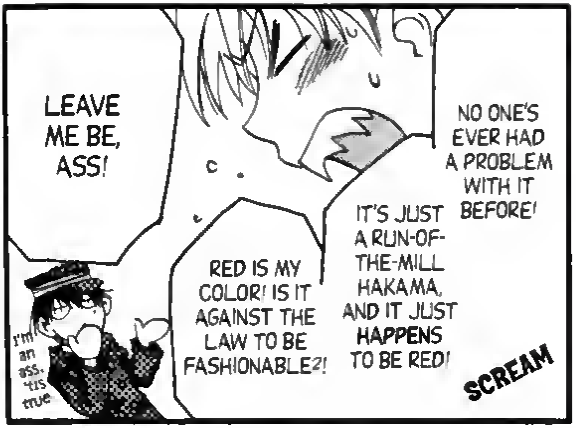
GO TO HELL.
WE CAN ALL RELATE TO THAT.
CAN'T WE?
WHAT?!
YOUR LITTLE ANTICS COULD GET YOUR MASTER AND ALL HIS COLLEAGUES ARRESTED BY THESE MEN HERE
UNLESS YOU WANT ALL YOUR FRIENDS IN JAIL.
MINAMOTO!
ドコっ
WE GOT A REPORT OF AN EXPLOSION FROM SOME UPSTANDING CITIZENS.
SINCE THAT INFORMATION ALSO MENTIONED EDWARDS, OFF WE WENT.
BE CAREFUL, DEMON EATER.

HUH? UH... WHAT?
ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI! GOOD TO SEE YOU. LISTEN, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU.
WHY DO YOU WEAR GIRL CLOTHES? YOU'RE A DUDE, RIGHT?
ヒロイン

AND OF COURSE I'M A MAN!
WASN'T EXPECTING THAT!
Y-YOU UNEDUCATED ASS! THESE AREN'T GIRL CLOTHES!

DON'T TAKE THEIR SIDE, HARUKA!
IS THAT TRUE? HAVE YOU BEEN DRESSED LIKE A WOMAN THIS WHOLE TIME?!
WELL, A HAKAMA IS PART OF A MIKO'S WARDROBE...
BUT AREN'T THOSE MIKO ROBES? THAT WOULD MAKE YOU A CROSS-DRESSER.

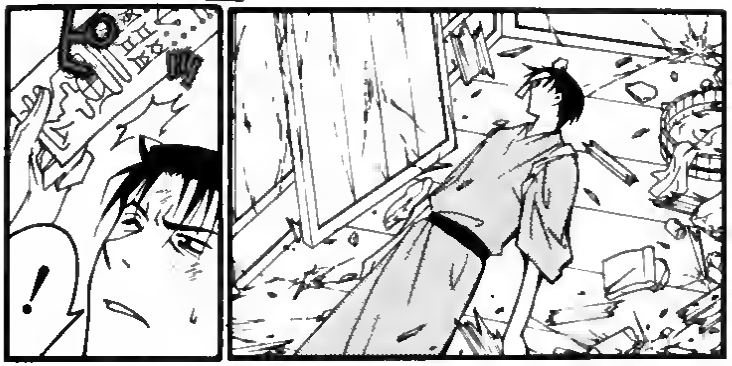
WHAT-EVER--I HAVE A BETTER QUESTION.


LEAVE ME BE, ASS!
I'm an ass, it's true
RED IS MY COLOR! IS IT AGAINST THE LAW TO BE FASHIONABLE?!
IT'S JUST A RUN-OF-THE-MILL HAKAMA, AND IT JUST HAPPENS TO BE RED!
NO ONE'S EVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH IT BEFORE!
SCREAM

!
DO YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT THE DEMON-EATING TENGU?
OF COURSE I DO, YOU TWIT.
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT I VALUE HIS FRIEND-SHIP.
HM
PH!
SO YOU'RE BUDDIES. GOT IT.
WE'RE OUTTA HERE, EDWARDS.
IS THAT IT?
HEY, TENGU

DON'T LET THE CUTE FACE AND THE GIRL CLOTHES FOOL YOU YOU DON'T WANT TO GET SCREWED OVER
SNIP
FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR "FRIEND" OVER THERE?
I DON'T NEED YOUR ADVICE.
I'M JUST SAYING PEOPLE HIDE BEHIND A LOT OF MASKS, DEMON EATER.
.....

WELL, I'M A BUSY MAN.
OFF WE GO.
TAKE CARE EVERYONE.
'TIL NEXT TIME.
.....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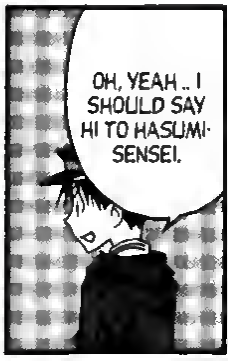

OH, YEAH.. I SHOULD SAY HI TO HASUMI-SENSEI.

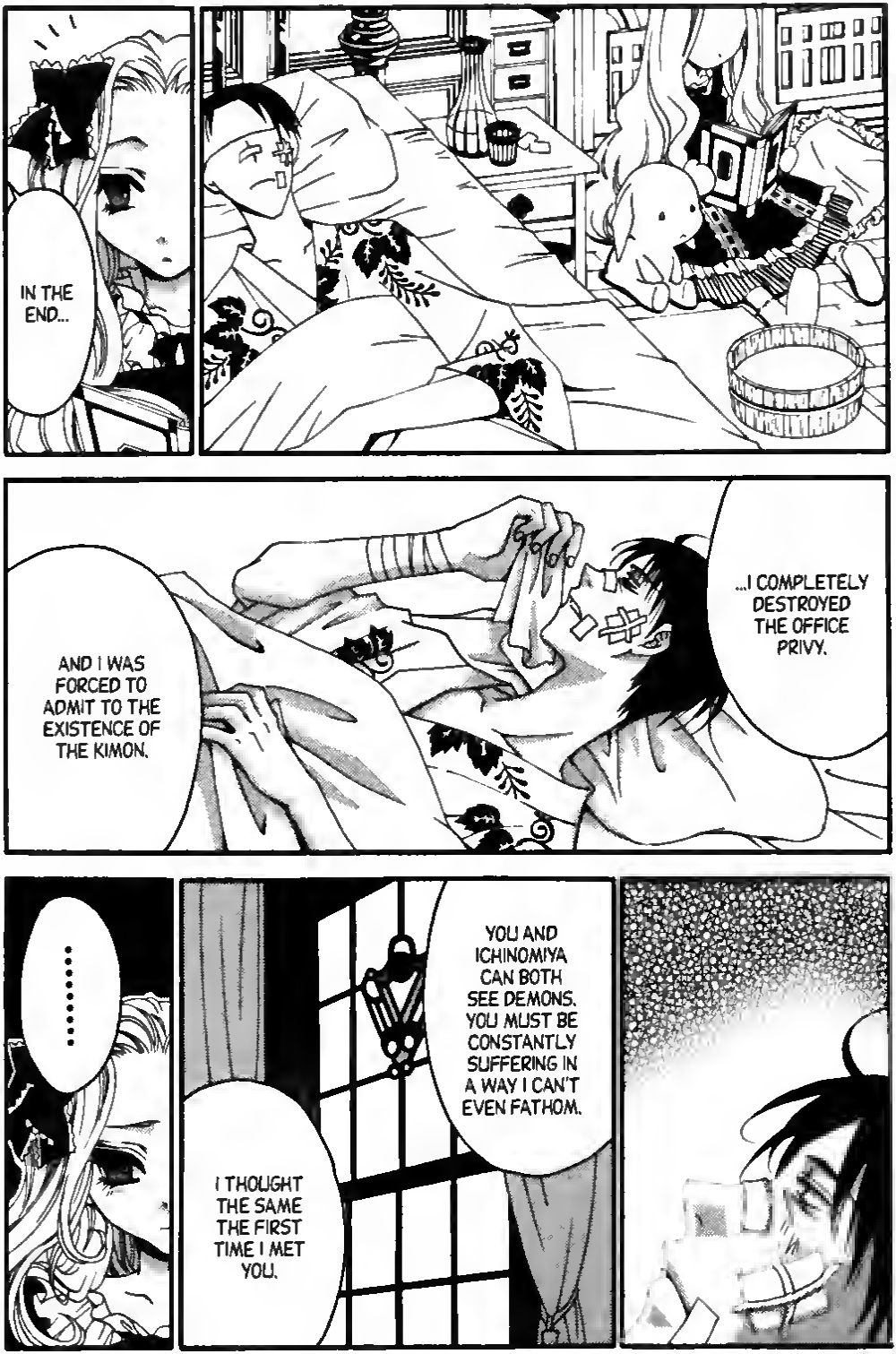
ALL BETTER NOW?
LONG TIME NO SEE, SENSEI.

MY NAME IS RAIKOU MINAMOTO.
I-IT'S YOU...
TATSU--
WHAT LITTLE CREEP DID THIS TO MY FAVORITE TEACHER, I WONDER?

AND I'D APPRECIATE YOU NOT SAYING MY FORMER NAME EVER AGAIN.
AM I CLEAR HASUMI SENSEI?
ANYWAY.
TAKE REALLY GOOD CARE OF YOUR LITTLE GIRL WILL YOU?
BYE.
OH, NO! WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
HASUMI... ARE YOU OKAY?
HM? UM.. YES.
WELCOME BACK, AYAME-CHAN
.....

WHAT DID I SAY?
WHO'S YOUR BROTHER, AYAME-CHAN?!
?!
I WONDER WHY.
WHAT DID I... OH. BROTHER'S HERE.
WHA?!
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW, SENSEI.
HE'S THE GOVERNMENT-APPROVED YOUKAI EXTERMINATOR, "RAIKOU MINAMOTO."
DID I NEVER PROPERLY INTRODUCE YOU TWO?

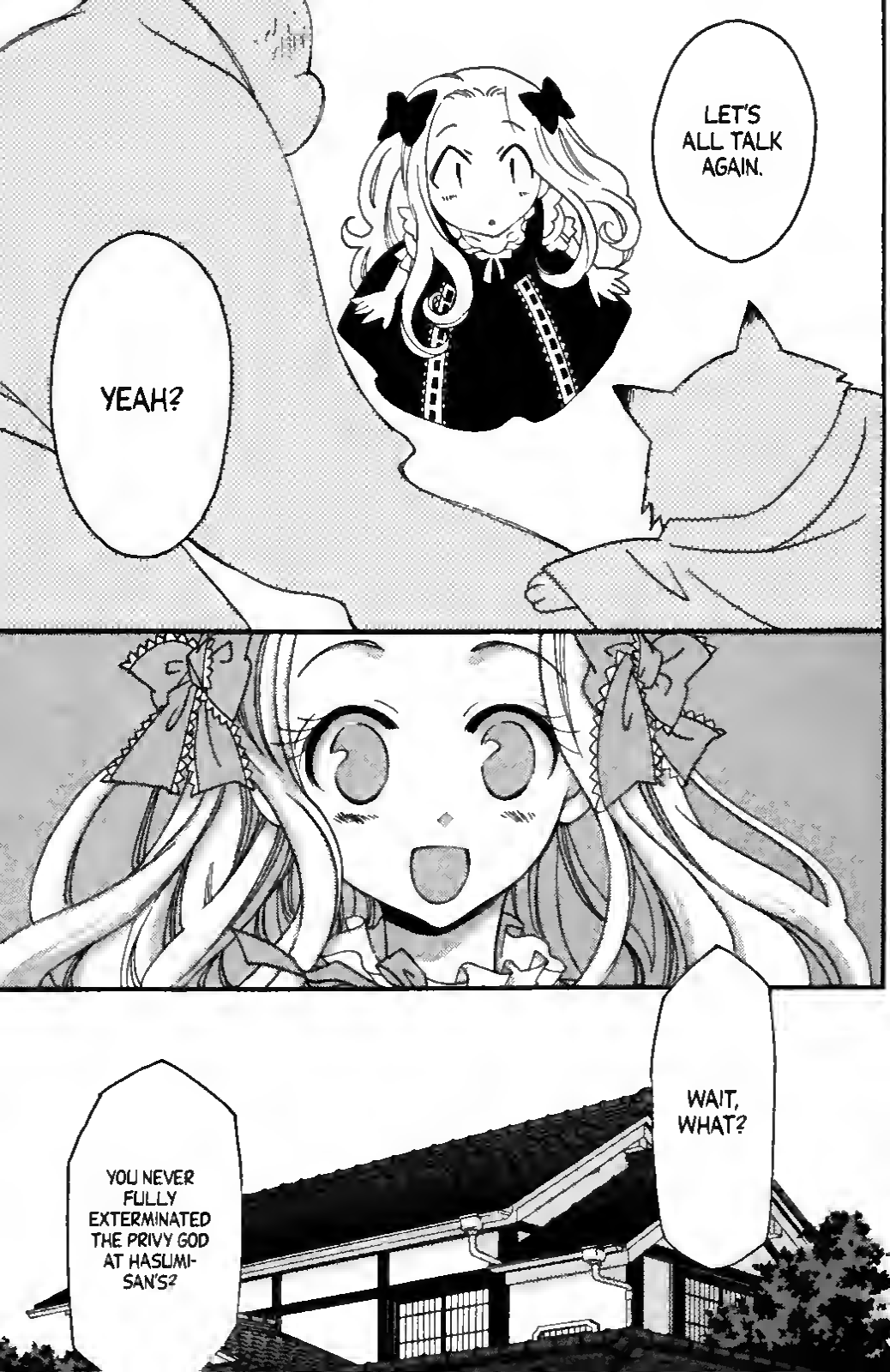
PLEASE LET ME HEAR YOUR STORIES ON YOUKAI AGAIN, ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI!
MY FULL NAME IS AYAME MINAMOTO. BUT ENOUGH OF THAT.


IN THE END...
...I COMPLETELY DESTROYED THE OFFICE PRIVY.
AND I WAS FORCED TO ADMIT TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE KIMON.
.....
YOU AND ICHINOMIYA CAN BOTH SEE DEMONS. YOU MUST BE CONSTANTLY SUFFERING IN A WAY I CAN'T EVEN FATHOM.
I THOUGHT THE SAME THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU.

YOU'RE NOT MY TOOL. YOU NEVER HAVE BEEN.
THEN WHY DID YOU MAKE ROSA DO THOSE THINGS?
YOU SAID ALL OF ROSA'S VISIONS WEREN'T REAL.
I'M AN ACADEMIC.
I WANT TO PINPOINT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HUMANS WHO CAN SEE YOUKAI AND THE HUMANS WHO CAN'T.
AND IN ORDER TO WIPE AWAY MY INFERIORITY COMPLEX OVER THOSE WHO CAN SEE...
RYOU-KAN?
NO... IT WAS MORE SELFISH THAN THAT.
I JUST WANTED TO FIND OUT WHY I COULDN'T SEE YOUKAI.

THE TWO OF YOU, WHO CAN SEE THE YOUKAI AS I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO...
...ARE THE OBJECTS OF MY COMPLETE AND UTTER ENVY.
I ONLY BECAME A FOLKLORIST BECAUSE I LOVED YOUKAI SO DEEPLY.
.....
UGH. IGNORE ME.
AND PLEASE FORGET WHAT I JUST SAID.
SQUEEZE

BATHROOM
UNDER CONSTRUCTION NO TRESPASSING
CHATTER
CHATTER
!
DON'T BE SCARED


LET'S ALL TALK AGAIN.
YEAH?
WAIT, WHAT?
YOU NEVER FULLY EXTERMINATED THE PRIVY GOD AT HASUMI-SAN'S?

WELL, THAT FAKE EXORCIST'S KANASHIBARIYA METHOD WASN'T PERFECT, EITHER
I FIGURE THE CHARM HE USED WAS HALF MESSED-UP
ANYWAY. IT LOOKS LIKE KANBARINYUUDOU ALSO HELPED OUT WITH THE SEALING OF THE KIMON.
.....
IS HARUKA-CHAN OEPRESSEO AGAIN?
!
OH. WELL, I'M GLAD ROSALIE-CHAN'S FRIENOS ARE OKAY.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT HARUKA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD AYAME-CHAN, AND THE GOALS OF MINAMOTO AND HIS CRONIES.
MAYBE IT ALL HAS SOME CONNECTION TO HARUKA'S PAST.
AND THERE WAS THAT UNKNOWN THING THAT POSSESSED ROSALIE-CHAN.

KAN-CHAN...
YOUKO-CHAN, YOU'RE ALMOST LATE FOR WORK
AGH!
...WHEN HARUKA PLANS TO TELL US ABOUT HIMSELF
I DON'T KNOW...

I DON'T KNOW WHY MINAMOTO LET AYAME-CHAN GET CLOSER TO US...
...BUT I'LL BE SURE TO PUT THAT TO GOOD USE.

I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET ANYONE RUIN MY TACTICS.
NOT NOW, AND NOT EVER.

ABOVE THE WALL IS A YIN YANG BARRIER ENCLOSING THE SITE IT S PROBABLY FOR REPELLING YOUKAI
THIS PLACE IS A LOT BIGGER THAN KANTAROU'S
HOW DO I GET INSIDE?
THERE'S NO CRAFT BEING USED BELOW THE WALL BUT...
!
Back Entrance → For Employees Only
.....

DEMON-EATING TENGU
SHINOBUYO FUJI SOUSHI
KIYOHIME STAGE

GOOD FEEDING BEFORE GOOD BLEEDING!
NO SWEET WITHOUT SWEAT!!
tactics

tactics

I'VE BEEN AFFLICTED WITH A STRANGE ILLNESS CALLED "LAP-NAPPING" THAT WILL KILL ME IF I DON'T NAP ON SOMEONE'S LAP AT LEAST ONCE A DAY.
HUFF
HUFF
I'M SORRY...I'M JUST SO RELIEVED.
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?!
EEK!
AND IF I WERE ALLOWED TO REST MY HEAD ON THE LAP OF A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN SUCH AS YOURSELF...
...I'M SURE I WOULD BE UP AND READY FOR ACTION IN ONLY MOMENTS.
ZZZ

Youko's Spartan Gigolo Class
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE APPRECIATED THOSE RIDICULOUS LESSONS.
THIS WAY. ♡
sexiness, go!
Stand up, Haruka-chan! We're not done here!
UM, PLEASE BE QUIET OR I'LL GET IN TROUBLE.
UM. THIS IS MY ROOM.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIE ON MY LAP...
...IN THERE?
SUDDENLY
HUH?
IF I CAN JUST GET INTO THAT HUGE HOUSE...
...I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONFIRM WHOM I SENSED.

GRRRR...
!
BREAKING A WINDOW WOULD BE FASTEST.
GRRR...
GRRRR.

ARF! ARF!
BE QUIET, ALL OF YOU!
BUT I'M IN A HURRY
I'M PETTING YOU. SEE?
WHINE
WHINE
IN A HURRY TO WHAT?
AGH!
LICK
LICK
I HAVE TO-

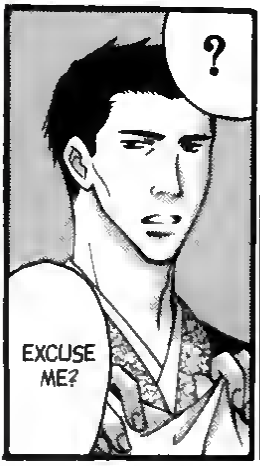
I CAME IN SECRET, AS PROM-ISED.
NOW WILL YOU ANSWER MY QUES-TIONS?
MISTER ICHINOMIYA DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE, CORRECT?
WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT INVITING AN ACQUAIN-TANCE FOR SOME TEA?
ENTERTAIN? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
BUT I ONLY ENTERTAIN GUESTS.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH SHE REMINDED ME OF THAT PERSON. EVEN THE PRESENCE I SENSED FROM HER WAS ALMOST THE SAME.
AYAME'S REALLY THAT PERSON, ISN'T SHE?
THE AYAME GIRL IS MINA-MOTO'S LITTLE SISTER?
THAT'S RIGHT.
.....

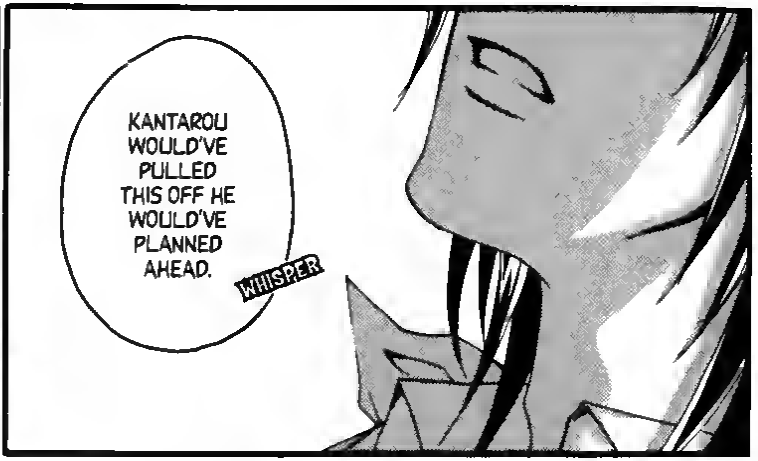
THOSE NARROW EYES TRICKED ME INTO TELLING THE TRUTH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ANSWER ME! THAT PERSON ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ALIVE!
THAT MUST MEAN YOU PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT MY PAST!
LADY AYAME IS LADY AYAME.
DON'T MAKE ME FINISH OUR FIGHT IN YOUR HOUSE.
LADY AYAME AND THE PERSON YOU SPEAK OF, MISTER DEMON EATER, ARE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
MISTER DEMON EATER?
BEHOLD MY TRIVIA. TEA IN JAPAN WAS ORIGINALLY BROUGHT IN BY ZEN MASTER EISAI WHO WROTE "DRINK TEA AND PROLONG LIFE" DURING THE KAMAKURA PERIOD. THAT WAS THE FOUNDATION OF AUCHI-MOMOYAMA. JUKOU MURATA, AND "WABI-STYLE TEA" WAS PERFECTED BY A MASTER OF THE TEA CEREMONY WHO WORKED FOR NOBUNAGA ODA.
RIKYUU BELIEVED THAT "THE ESSENCE OF THE TEA CEREMONY IS SIMPLY TO BOIL WATER, TO MAKE TEA, AND TO DRINK IT--NOTHING MORE!" WHICH IS NOW THE CORE ESSENCE OF THE TEA CEREMONY. THERE ARE MANY INTERPRETATIONS OF THIS, BUT I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT HAS A PROFOUND EFFECT ON HOW THE TEA TASTES WHEN IT COMES TO ENTERTAINING AND BEING ENTERTAINED. ONE THING TO DO TO ENSURE THAT THE TEA TASTES ITS BEST IS--
PLEASE. I AM BUT A SIMPLE MAN WITH TOO MUCH FREE TIME.
HUH?!
WITH THAT ARM?
ALL I NEED IS ONE.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU, SIR
MAN TO MAN, AS WE ARE.
I CAN'T RELATE TO YOU AT ALL.
YOU'RE WEIRD.

BUT I GUESS THAT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT THINKING BEFORE ACTING.
I GUESS WE CAN'T FINISH OUR FIGHT.

MASTER RAIKOU IS OUT ON BUSINESS.
MINA-MOTO.
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOY?


?
EXCUSE ME?


KANTAROU WOULD'VE PULLED THIS OFF HE WOULD'VE PLANNED AHEAD.
WHISPER

NOTHING..
THAT'S A HUMAN SENTIMENT.
HAVING SOMEBODY NEED YOU...
...GIVES YOU THE ENERGY TO LIVE
MISTER DEMON EATER.
WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO BE EMPLOYED?
BUT WHEN A YOUKAI IS NAMED BY A HUMAN, HIS EXISTENCE IS ACKNOWLEDGED. ISN'T THAT SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE?
YOU MEAN BEING ENSLAVED?
I HATE IT. I'M THE MISTRESS OF MY OWN DOMAIN. ER...KING?

I DOUBTED MYSELF AND WAS REPUDIATED BY OTHERS. IT MADE ME QUESTION MY REASON FOR EXISTING.
THE EXPERIENCE MADE ME UNEASY INSIDE
SIR.
THERE WAS ONCE A TIME WHEN I COULDN'T PROTECT MASTER RAIKOU.
DON'T YOU FEEL THE SAME SENSE OF UNEASE?
BEING CALLED A "DEMON EATER" AT THIS POINT IN TIME... DOESN'T THAT IRRITATE YOU?
DOES MISTER ICHINOMIYA KNOW?
BUT I DO KNOW YOU'RE AT LEAST HALF WRONG
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THINGS EVEN I DON'T KNOW ABOUT MYSELF.

DOES HE KNOW WHOM YOU WERE LAST IN A MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP WITH?

...THAT'S IN THE PAST.
THAT WASN'T MY "MASTER."
AND I DON'T RECOGNIZE HUMAN EXISTENCE TO BEGIN WITH.
THAT "PERSON" YOU MENTIONED BEFORE. I ASSUME YOU MEANT YOUR OLD MASTER
THAT'S IRRITATING.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT ME.
NEVER MIND. FORGIVE ME.
MISTER DEMON EATER...
.....

THE MINAMOTO FAMILY IS IN POSSESSION OF THE MAJORITY OF RARE AND TREASURED YOUKAI DESCRIPTIONS.
HOWEVER..
...DESPITE ALL THAT, THEY STILL DON'T KNOW WHO WAS BEHIND YOUR SEALING, MISTER DEMON EATER.
HUH.
REALLY?
YOU'RE INVASIVE AS HELL.

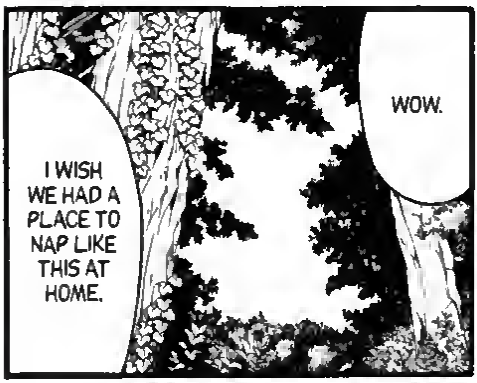
PHEW
THANK YOU.
.....
THAT WAS... GOOD.
THERE'S NO CHANCE WE'D MEET AGAIN.
THAT PERSON'S BEEN DEAD A LONG TIME.
I THINK WE COULD HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD FRIENDS.
IT'S A SHAME.
I'M GOING HOME.
LAST TIME THERE WAS THE INJURY BUT NEXT TIME WE'LL END THIS

THEN DON'T HIDE A SWORD IN YOUR BREAST SHEATH, ASSHOLE
HEH...
I SEE.
MY HUMBLEST APOLOGIES, MISTER DEMON EATER
BY THE WAY...
KAN-CHAAAN!

tactics 6

SLAM
WHEN HE GETS BACK, HE'LL PAY FOR THIS—IN THE CLASSROOM!
I HAD A NEW SKILL FOR HIM AND EVERY-THING.
BAH! HE'S TOTALLY SKIPPING OUT ON GIGOLO CLASS.
HE'S OUT ON A WALK.
WHERE THE HELL DID HARUKA-CHAN RUN OFF TO?

.....
フ○ン...


WOW.
I WISH WE HAD A PLACE TO NAP LIKE THIS AT HOME.

AND THIS TRIP ENDED UP BEING USELESS.
I SHOULD GET HOME.
IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
AND THAT WABI STYLED TEA EARLIER... NOW I'M JEALOUS OF THAT JERK
JERK
There are some great ideas in the garden. Why don't you go see?
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLACE TO PLANT SOMETHING THAT BIG
WOW... IT'S ALL GLASS INLAYS.

OW!
OW...!
ST-
STOP IT!

STOP!
RIN...
HAAH
HAAH
!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WON'T HAND YOU OVER.

IF YOU DON'T, I'LL SCREAM FOR SOMEONE!
AH...!
I WON'T GIVE YOU TO ANYBODY
NN...
EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
YOU'RE MINE.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
WH-WHAT?
SHUT UP!
MY...
...MY DEMON-EATING TENGU.
I LOVE YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT... I KNOW HOW TO SHUT YOU UP!
HAA
HAA
SHUT-WAIT!
SHUT UP!

AAH!

MM...!
ST-STOP!
WHY?
I'M JUST DOING WHAT YOU TOLD ME, REMEMBER?
FUJI.

LET ME GO!
YOU... LECHER!
AS WE THOUGHT, THE DEMON-EATING TENGU HAS CLEAR MEMORIES OF EVERYTHING BUT THE TIME HE WAS SEALED
I HINTED THAT WE HAVE THE TRUMP CARD FOR THAT, AND OUR PLAN TO HAVE HIM COME IN CONTACT WITH LADY AYAME BY THE SHRINE WAS A SUCCESS

THAT TENGU'S PRETTY THICKHEADED, SO HE NEEDED US TO GIVE HIM A SHAKE.
AT ANY RATE...
THE FACT THAT HE ACTUALLY BELIEVED THAT I'D GO OUT WITHOUT WATANABE...
...PROVES HOW NAIVE HE IS.
AT LEAST YOUKAI ARE EASY TO MANIPULATE— EVEN "THE STRONGEST."
MASTER RAIKOU'S PLANS NEVER FAIL.
WELL, I'M RELIEVED
HIM PROWLING AROUND THE MANSION WAS CREEPY.

I DON'T THINK THE CAUSE OF HAPPINESS IS THE SAME FOR EVERYONE, MASTER.
EVERY-BODY'S HAPPY
THAT'S IN LINE WITH OUR GOALS- AND IBARAGI'S.
CRUNCH
I WONDER IF THE OEMON EATER'S BEHAVIOR WITH AYAME IS THE SIGN OF LINGERING AFFECTION OR SOMETHING.
IN ANY CASE, I'D BE HAPPIER HAVING HIM COME TO US.
BUT ULTIMATE HAPPINESS DOESN'T REALLY VARY.
.....
MAYBE.
SO...
ANO ICHINOMIYA'S DOING A HALF-ASSED JOB AT HEALING IT.
THE OEMON EATER CARRIES A SCAR ON HIS HEART FROM A MILLENNIUM AGO.

SEE? THE DEMON EATER'S BEST OPTION IS TO COME TO US.
WHEN IT COMES TO AN INJURY THAT NEVER REALLY HEALS, YOU HAVE TO MAKE A BIGGER INJURY TO LEAK THE PUS OUT. AND I'M TALKING ABOUT A BIG ENOUGH INJURY THAT NOT EVEN SENSEI CAN HEAL IT.
THAT WAY THE DEMON EATER WILL FINALLY GET BACK HIS KOUSHIN EYE

HE'S A SPECIAL YOUKAI UNLIKE ANY OTHER
SAKATA. ABOUT THAT.. THE YOUKAI'S SORT OF LIKE AN INSECTIVOROUS PLANT.
.. BUT WHAT'S THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF HIS POWER?
MASTER RAIKOU, I'VE HEARD THAT THE DEMON-EATING TENGU IS A TROUBLE-SOME YOUKAI...
THE DEMON EATER HAS DEMON FLESH AS THE **SECOND** ITEM ON HIS MENU.
SPECIAL?

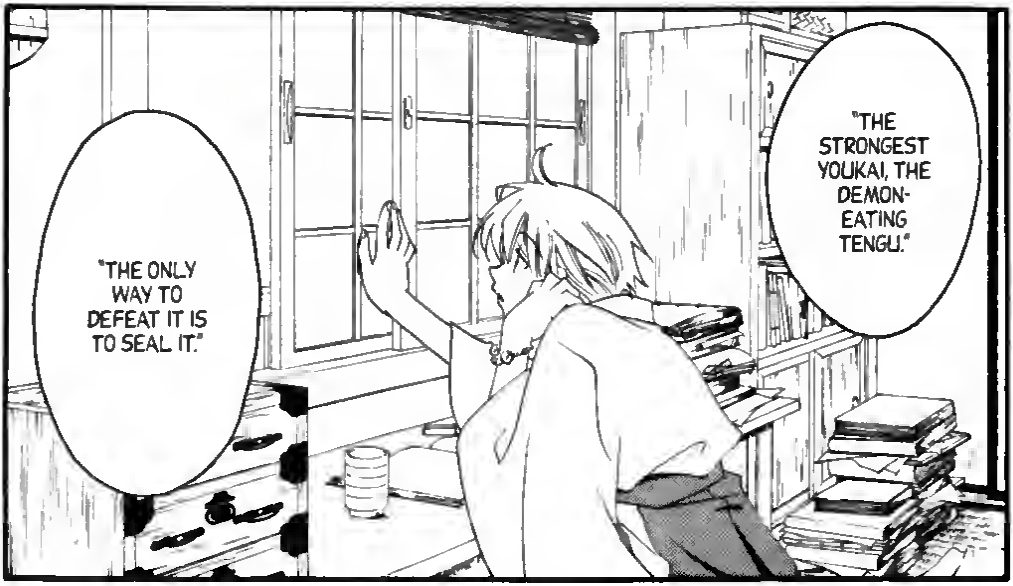
HIS FIRST PICK IS DEMON HEARTS.
RIGHT, IBARAGI?
THEN HIS EXISTENCE IS THE NATURAL ENEMY OF ANY DEMON.
AND WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IT, WHAT IS "RIGHT," ANYWAY?
SINCE EVERYONE FOLLOWS THEIR OWN IDEAS OF WHAT IS RIGHT, AND THE IDEAS DIFFER, THAT COULD MAKE EVERYONE EVIL...
ENEMY? DOES THAT MAKE US EVIL?
THE DEMON-EATING TENGU ALSO REGARDS US AS AN ENEMY.

IN CONCLUSION!
..OR IT COULD MAKE ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS THROUGH WITH HIS CONVICTIONS RIGHT.
I'M RIGHT. BUT YOU KIDS ALREADY KNEW THAT.

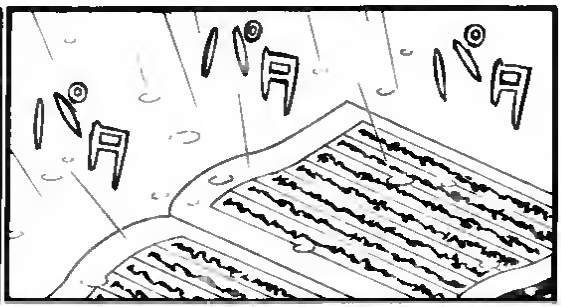
WE FOUR DEVAS...
...WILL DO AS YOU COMMAND MASTER RAIKOU MINAMOTO
.....
BROTHER...
!
SHUT

OW...!
ARE YOU ILL?
WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT?
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU SO MAD ABOUT?
FUJI...

THE DEMON-EATING TENGU.
A RARE TYPE OF YOUKAI THAT SLAUGHTERS DEMONS UNLIKE ANY OTHER
THAT SUPERNATURAL POWER SOMETIMES EXTENDS TO OTHER YOUKAI AND EVEN HUMANS, MAKING IT A TRULY DANGEROUS BEING. WEAK DEMONS FEAR IT. HIGH-LEVEL DEMONS CHALLENGE IT OUT OF THEIR OWN GREED.
USING ITS SUPERNATURAL POWER TO CONFUSE DEMONS, IT DRAWS THEM OUT AND FEASTS UPON THEM.
THAT FORM LIKENS IT TO A FIERCE GOD
WHEN ALL ITS POWER IS UNLEASHED IT TRANSFORMS INTO THE "KOUSHIN EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU"


"THE ONLY WAY TO DEFEAT IT IS TO SEAL IT."
"THE STRONGEST YOUKAI, THE DEMON-EATING TENGU."

HARUKA-CHAN! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
RAIN...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パラ

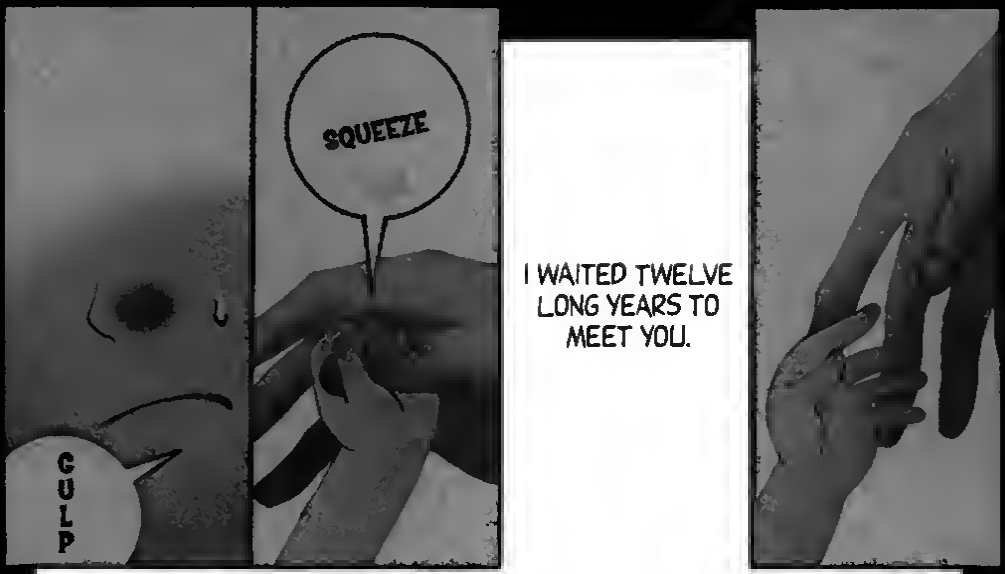
HANG ON-- I'LL GET YOU A TOWEL!

HARUKA...
OH, BITE ME.
YOU WERE OUTSIDE SO LONG THAT YOU'RE SOPPING WET.
WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT MAKING DADDY WORRY?!
HAGH!
I'M...DIRTY.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
COME IN BEFORE--
WAH!

HARUKA...
WELCOME HOME.
OW! YOUKO, MY HEAD!
IF WE DON'T RUB YOU DOWN GOOO, YOU'LL CATCH COLD!
AT LEAST STEAL AN UMBRELLA FROM A GIRL WITH YOUR GIGOLO WILES!
...I'M HOME.
110A 110A
110A

YOU WERE ASSIGNED AS MY DUTY FROM THE MOMENT OF YOUR BIRTH. I WAS DRILLED SEVERELY FOR THINGS I COULDN'T EVEN SEE.
BUT EVEN THOUGH I WAS TOLD TO "RISK MY LIFE TO FULFILL MY DUTY" TO THOSE UNSEEN THINGS, I WASN'T SKILLED ENOUGH FOR THAT— THAT TALK WAS AS LOFTY AS A DREAM.
THAT ALL CHANGED AS OF THAT VERY INSTANT.

SIDE STORY 1



I WAITED TWELVE LONG YEARS TO MEET YOU.

HOW LONG I THIRSTED FOR IT; AT LAST MY EXISTENCE HAD BEEN GIVEN VALUE.

IT FELT LIKE MY LEGS WERE FINALLY PLANTED ON THE GROUND.

GYAAAH!
THAT WAS THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN ME, SUEKICHINOBU WATANABE, AND THE ONE WHO WOULD ADOPT THE NAME "RAIKOU MINAMOTO" AND BECOME MY ONE AND ONLY MASTER.
WATANABE-SAMA! WHO WILL YOU CHOOSE—ME, OR THAT WOMAN?!

PLEASE DON'T WORRY, LADY AYAKA. YOU HAVE MY FAVOR.
DO I REALLY?
OF COURSE. THERE ARE NO LIES IN MY HEART.
すっ
PLEASE ANSWER ME, SIR! WILL I, AYAKA–
I WILL NOT DISCRIMINATE. AND I PLAN TO INCLUDE YOU...
...AS ONE OF THE SIX WOMEN I LOVE.
I'M SURE AN ORDINARY PERSON WOULDN'T BE CAPABLE OF THIS, BUT THE DEPTH OF THE LOVE I HARBOR FOR THE SIX WOMEN, INCLUDING YOURSELF IS BOTH DEEP AND NATURAL TO ME.
ぽかーん
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND I LOVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE SIX WOMEN, INCLUDING YOURSELF FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE SIX WOMEN, INCLUDING YOURSELF WERE DANGLING FROM A CLIFF FACE, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO SAVE THE SIX WOMEN, INCLUDING YOURSELF

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. YOU ARE ONE OF MY PRECIOUS SIX WOMEN.
AND THOSE SIX WOMEN, INCLUDING YOURSELF—
I WOULD EVEN VENTURE TO SAY THAT I'M LIKE A DEVICE THAT BEARS MORE LOVE A "LOVE MACHINE," AS THEY CALL I IN ENGLISH
DO YOU UNDER-STAND? LET'S SAY IT TOGETHER NOW. "LOVE MACHINE."

THROB
THE MINAMOTOS' WESTERN-STYLED HOUSE MAKES COMMONERS QUAKE
IN THE EIGHTEEN YEARS I'VE BEEN IN SERVICE TO MASTER RAIKOU, I'VE GOTTEN USED TO THE PLACE DESPITE MY DISTASTE FOR IT.

SUEKICHINOBU WATANABE REPORTING.
THE WESTERN-STYLED HOUSE FEATURES JAPANESE STYLES, TOO.
BUT THE PASSAGES ARE WESTERN-SO JUST AS I'M REMINDING MYSELF NOT TO FORGET MY IDENTITY AS A JAPANESE MAN, MY SURROUNDINGS SUDDENLY TURN NATIVE.
YOU'RE LATE, MAN. I WORE MYSELF OUT WAITING FOR YOU.

tactics 6

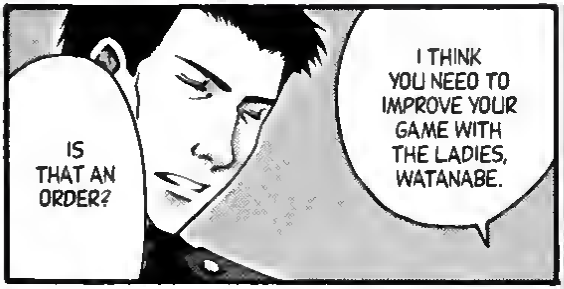
MY APOLOGIES, MASTER EDWARDS. PLEASE UNDERSTAND MY POSITION.
I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD TALK TO HIM, WATANABE-SAN.
MEOW
...BUT HE ISN'T TAKING IT SERIOUSLY AT ALL.
THE MAJOR GENERAL SAID HE WANTED TO LEARN FLOWER ARRANGING FROM ME...

TOO CLEVER FOR EACH OTHER...
WAS THAT WHAT THAT WAS? HA HA!
BUT THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING.
I THINK IT'D BE FASTEST IF YOU JUST PLEADED WITH ME.
HMM..THEN WHOM CAN I ASK FOR HELP?

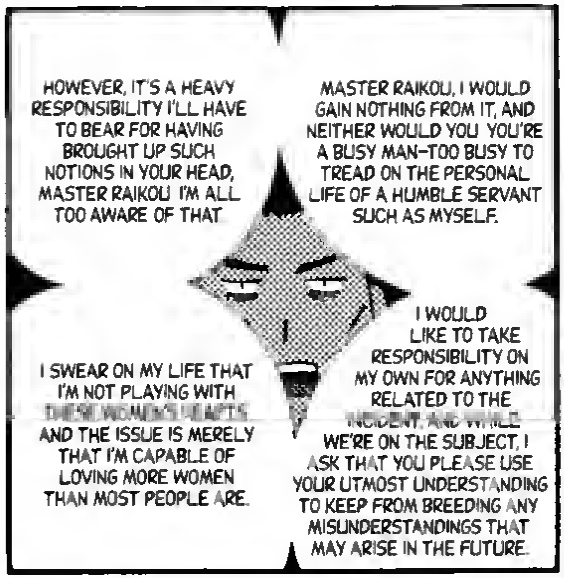
WELL, I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THIS.
IMP
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT IN ONE OF THE ROOMS IN THE IMPERIAL HOTEL WHERE HE'S STAYING, HE HOUSES HAKAMA FROM ALL PERIODS AND PLACES.
THIS FOREIGNER NAMED EDWARDS IS CUNNING, LIKE MY MASTER. HIS COY TONE IS INTENTIONAL, AND HE HAS AN EXPERT GRASP OF THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

パタ-ン
MASTER RAIKOU.
UNTIL TOMORROW, HMM?
MAJOR GENERAL AND WATANABE-SAN.
MEOW
YOU HAVE SOME NERVE, WATANABE; LECTURING ME WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE HANDPRINT OF THE WOMAN WHO SLAPPED YOU ON YOUR FACE.
WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER RIGHT NOW?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO ARRANGE FLOWERS PLEASE DO SO. BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO RELAX, THEN JUST RELAX.
MY MASTER ALWAYS MAKES A SCENE OF THINGS OTHERS WOULD RATHER KEEP SECRET.
DON'T BE ABSURD. WHY ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH A LITTLE DETAIL LIKE THAT, MASTER RAIKOU?

tactics 6


I THINK YOU NEED TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME WITH THE LADIES, WATANABE.
IS THAT AN ORDER?

IT'S CALLED "ADVICE," TIGHTASS.
BESIDES, WHAT GOOD WOULD AN ORDER DO YOU? IT'S NOT EVEN MY BUSINESS.
THEN WE'LL BOTH BE WASTING OUR TIME IF WE CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION.

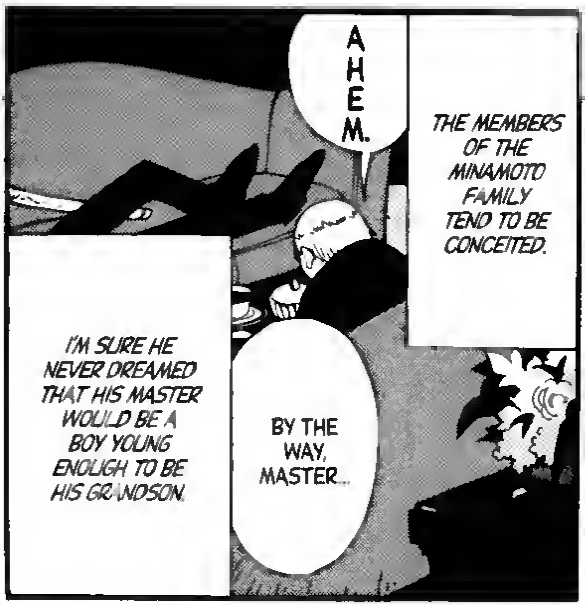

MASTER RAIKOU, I WOULD GAIN NOTHING FROM IT, AND NEITHER WOULD YOU. YOU'RE A BUSY MAN—TOO BUSY TO TREAD ON THE PERSONAL LIFE OF A HUMBLE SERVANT SUCH AS MYSELF.
HOWEVER, IT'S A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY I'LL HAVE TO BEAR FOR HAVING BROUGHT UP SUCH NOTIONS IN YOUR HEAD, MASTER RAIKOU. I'M ALL TOO AWARE OF THAT.
I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY ON MY OWN FOR ANYTHING RELATED TO THE INCIDENT. AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, I ASK THAT YOU PLEASE USE YOUR UTMOST UNDERSTANDING TO KEEP FROM BREEDING ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT MAY ARISE IN THE FUTURE.
I SWEAR ON MY LIFE THAT I'M NOT PLAYING WITH THESE WOMEN'S HEARTS. AND THE ISSUE IS MERELY THAT I'M CAPABLE OF LOVING MORE WOMEN THAN MOST PEOPLE ARE.

INDEED, I AM A MAN—
JUST SHUT UP, WILL YOU? YOU'RE SO ANNOYING.

IT'S A CHILD'S INNOCENCE. MASTER RAIKOU IS THAT KIND OF "INNOCENT."
BUT HE'S IN NO WAY "PURE."

I HEAR MY UNCLE'S COMING.
MY HUMBLEST APOLOGIES.
I GUESS I SHOULD TREAT HIM WITH THE KIND OF HOSPITALITY I'M BEST AT.
WHAT HOSPITALITY? WHITE IS THE COLOR MASTER RAIKOU HATES THE MOST.
YOU'VE MASTERED FLOWER ARRANGING AT THE YOUNG AGE OF EIGHTEEN.
AS THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE MINAMOTO FAMILY, YOU'RE MOST REFINED.

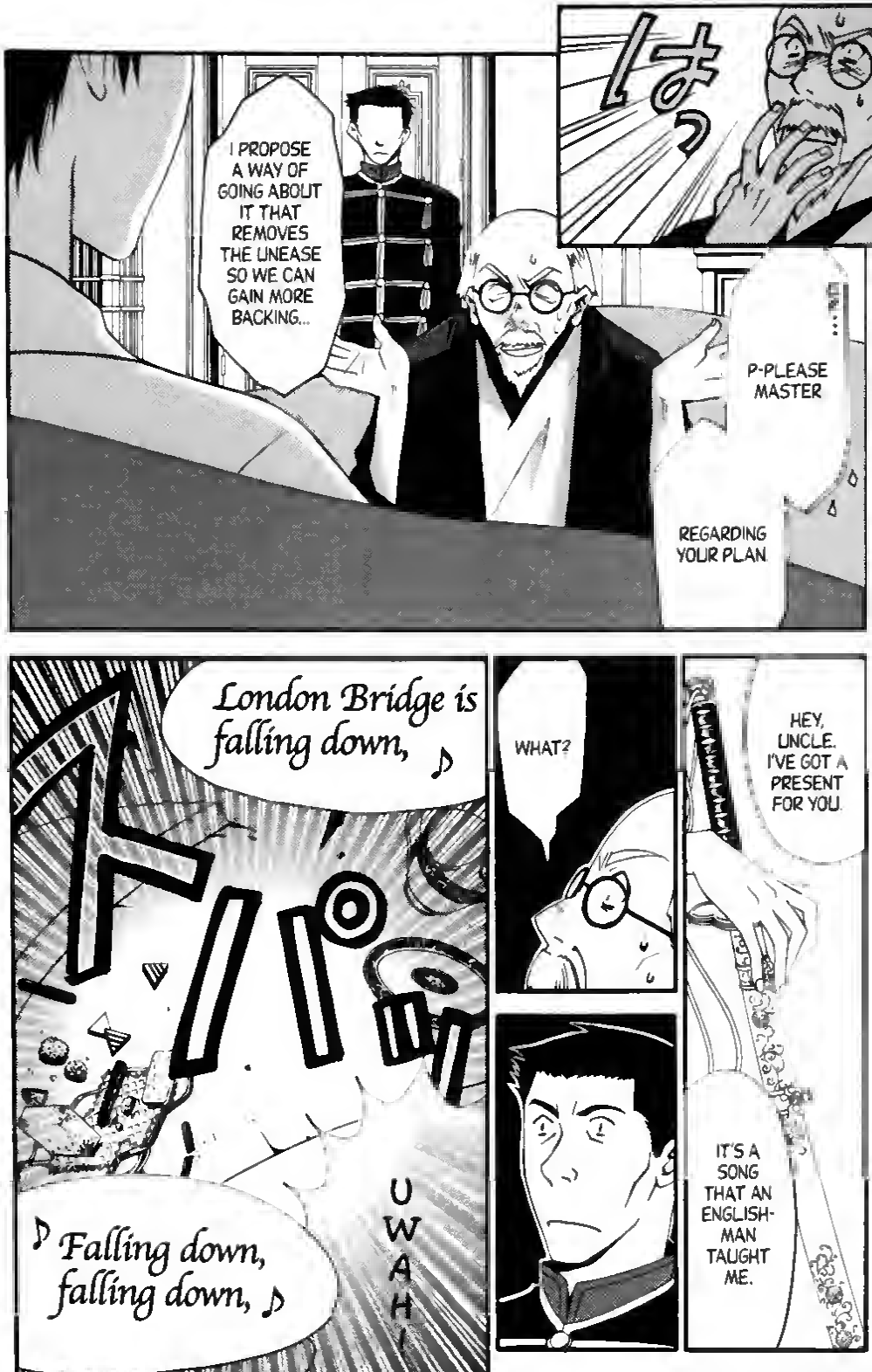
IT MAKES US HAPPY TO HEAR THAT YOU'RE ENJOYING THEM, UNCLE.
COUCH!
COUCH!
POOF
POOF
POOF
POKE


AHEM.
THE MEMBERS OF THE MINAMOTO FAMILY TEND TO BE CONCEITED.
I'M SURE HE NEVER DREAMED THAT HIS MASTER WOULD BE A BOY YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE HIS GRANDSON.
BY THE WAY, MASTER...

ALTHOUGH THEY CALL HIM THE "GOVERNMENT-RECOGNIZED YOUKAI EXTERMINATOR" OF THE FAMILY, HE'S MORE LIKE A CUNNING BOY BLESSED WITH BUSINESS SENSE.
ヒソヒソ

WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THIS MONTH AMOUNTED TO?
THAT'S WHAT?
WHAT—I'M EATING UP OUR FUNDS? DID YOU FORGET WHO'S LETTING YOU WORK FREELY LIKE THIS UNCLE?
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT MY DUTIES IN A WAY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE FAMILY BUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING MASTER
.....
THAT'S ...!
GOOD. YOU'RE A GENTLEMAN OF GOOD CONDUCT, UNCLE. I'M GLAD YOU'RE SO COURTEOUS TO ME.
WHISPER
I WASN'T BEING COURTEOUS TO A BRAT LIKE YOU...!

I'M STILL A NOVICE, SO I HOPE TO RELY ON YOUR POWER A LITTLE, UNCLE.
THE MUCOUS LINING IN MASTER RAIKOU'S NOSE IS VERY DELICATE
I'LL HAVE TO REPRIMAND HIM LATER IF HE EATS LIKE THAT, HE'LL GET ANOTHER NOSEBLEED.
D-DON'T BE ABSURD!
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, UNCLE— THIS IS HOW ECONOMICS WORKS.
EVERYTHING NEEDS AN INVESTMENT, RIGHT? AND IF IT MEANS INCREASING PROFITS, THEN ALL THE BETTER
BUT WILL THERE BE PROFITS?
I GUARANTEE IT. SHOULDN'T THAT BE ENOUGH FOR YOU?


I PROPOSE A WAY OF GOING ABOUT IT THAT REMOVES THE UNEASE SO WE CAN GAIN MORE BACKING...
P-PLEASE MASTER
REGARDING YOUR PLAN
London Bridge is falling down, ♪
♪ Falling down, falling down, ♪
UWAH!
WHAT?
HEY, UNCLE. I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU.
IT'S A SONG THAT AN ENGLISH-MAN TAUGHT ME.

London Bridge is falling down, ♪
EEEK!
♪ Wood and clay will wash away, ♪
WATANABE! STOP HIM! CAN'T YOU STOP HIM?!
♪ wash away, wash away, ♪

watanabe
...
I VALUE THESE VASES PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE MINAMOTOS SINCE THE HEIAN ERA FAR MORE THAN I VALUE YOU, OLD MAN.
Bricks and mortar will not stay, My fair lady.

I'LL TAKE YOU ALL TO SHANGRI-LA...
.. ALL OF YOU, GOOD SIRS...
...WITH THE HELP OF THIS DOUJIKIRI YASUTSUNA.
I WANT SOME HOT BLACK TEA TO WASH THIS NASTY TASTE FROM MY MOUTH, WATANABE.

OH!
MASTER RAIKOU'S LITTLE SISTER IS LADY AYAME.
SHE NEVER LOOKS AT ME; SHE ONLY TURNS HER BIG EYES TO MY MASTER.
HOW ARE YOU, BROTHER?
HEY, AYAME. YOU'VE GOTTEN SO PRETTY SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
COME ON, BROTHER. WE HAD LUNCH TOGETHER THREE HOURS AGO.
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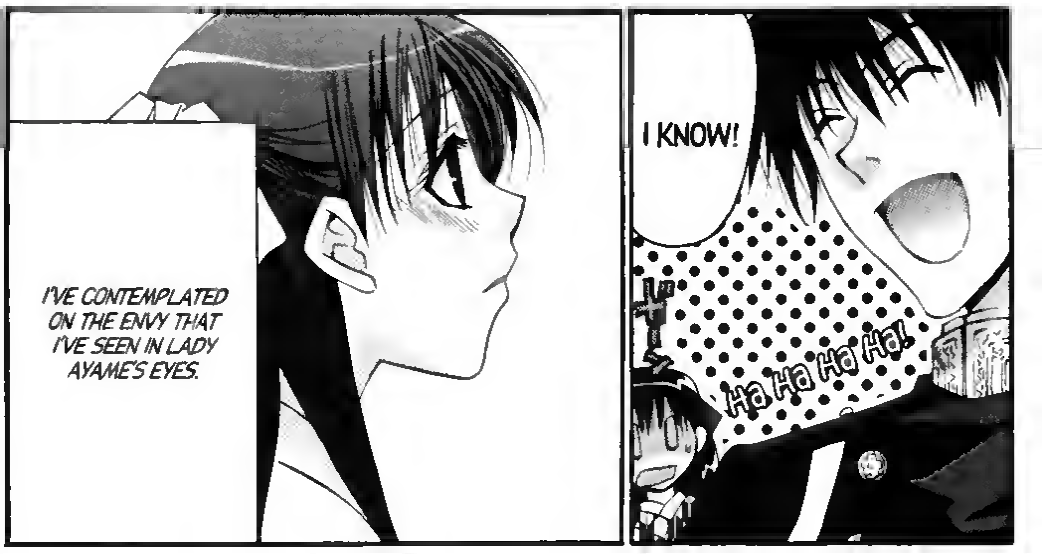

I'VE CONTEMPLATED ON THE ENVY THAT I'VE SEEN IN LADY AYAME'S EYES.
I KNOW!
Ha Ha Ha Ha!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I HEARD UNCLE IS HERE
HE WENT HOME ALREADY.
IT'S RESPECT AND AWE FOR HER SUPERIOR BROTHER, CHOSEN OUT OF THE ENTIRE FAMILY.
HE WAS FEELING A BIT BEAT UP. RIGHT, WATANABE?
REALLY? I HOPE HE'S OKAY.
.....
YOU'RE SO CONSIDERATE, AYAME. YOU SHOULD GO VISIT HIM.
AND WHEN YOU DO... TELL HIM I HOPE HE TAKES GOOD CARE OF HIMSELF
I WILL!
I PRAY THAT SOMEDAY LADY AYAME WILL FIND SOMEONE WHO LOVES HER.
I DON'T LIKE SEEING WOMEN CRY.

DURING THIS TIME MASTER RAIKOU MEDITATES. THE ACT IS VITAL TO HIS ROLE AS AN "EXTERMINATOR," AND HE WON'T PERMIT AN INTERRUPTION FROM ANYBODY.
AS THE DAY COMES TO AN END, WE ALL TAKE A TEMPORARY REST.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I HEARD YOU WERE SLAPPED BY A WOMAN TODAY
I'M SURE YOU DESERVED IT.
UGH. YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I WANTED TO SEE BEFORE WORK.
LADY IBARAGI.
THIS IS WHAT I DESPISE ABOUT YOU, WOMANIZER!
I WISH YOU WOULD SLAP ME, LADY IBARAGI.
I'M HAPPY TO BE SLAPPED BY THE WOMEN I LOVE.

IN THE SUMMER OF 1923, WHEN I TOOK MASTER RAIKOU'S HAND
I KNEW THE PATH MEANT FOR ME WOULD NOT BE AN EASY ONE.
BUT I PRAY.
GOOD OLD WATANABE, ALWAYS AT THE CENTER OF GIRL ATTENTION.
ニヤ
ニヤ
MASTER RAIKOU...
HOW MUCH OF THAT DID YOU SEE?
A DAY FILLED WITH GETTING SLAPPED BY WOMEN, AND ENDING WITH GETTING SLAPPED BY WOMEN AND I WAS TEASED BY MY MASTER... SOMETIMES THESE CALM DAYS ARE THE BEST.
AHEM...

I PRAY THAT I CAN HOLD ON TO MASTER RAIKOU'S HAND AND SEE HIM OFF TO A PEACEFUL DEATH.
SO THAT HE NEVER SHOWS ME HIS FACE IN TEARS LIKE HE DID THAT FIRST TIME...
...I PRAY TO SOMETHING UNKNOWN.

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT THE HELL IS TAKING HARUKA?

SIDE STORY 2

SPECIAL MATERIAL FOR COMPILED COMIC
SUIZU TAKEHIRO
TAKEN FROM EPISODE 6 OF THE ANIME
I'M GONNA EAT IT WITH HARUKA-SAN. ♡
I BOUGHT SOME CONFETTI CANDY THAT'S ALL THE RAGE IN THE PORTS NOW!
YIPPEE! ♡
YOU WAITING FOR YOUR DAD AGAIN, NENE-CHAN?
HOW BRAVE. HERE, I'LL SHARE MY CONFETTI CANDY WITH YOU.
THANK YOU...
ME, TOO. ♡ HERE'S SOME CONFETTI CANDY.
ONE WEEK LATER...
TMP
THE END

tactics

I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HARUKA'S PAST.
THOUGH I DOUBT HE'LL **VOLUNTEER** TO TALK TO ME ABOUT IT.
STILL, IF I'M GOING TO BE ANY MATCH FOR MINAMOTO AND CO...
...I NEED TO GET HARUKA TO SQUEAL.
PLAN ONE. THE DIRECT APPROACH
I'M COMING IN, HARUKA.

SNOOOORE
WHA-? THAT YOU, KANTAROU?
YOUR VOICE GRATES
HARUKA! IT'S AFTERNOON ALREADY, SLOTHMAN! GET YOUR BUTT OUT OF BED!
MY HAIR'S GOTTEN LONG.
HUH?
MM-HM ...
AAH...
LISTEN, HARUKA. THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT TODAY THAT'S-

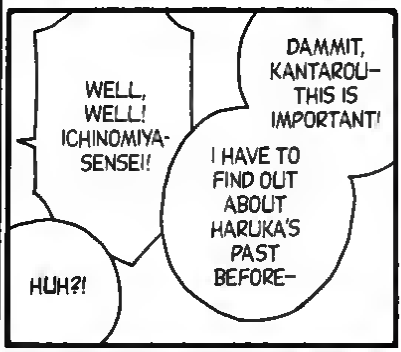
WHAAAAAAA?!
I'M GOING TO THE BARBER.
HARUKA, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
HMM...
URGH.
I DON'T LIKE IT.
AND STOP TOUCHING MY THINGS WITHOUT PERMISSION!
EEP!
WE LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE. YOU CAN TALK TO ME WHENEVER YOU WANT.
AH...
YOU'RE THE STINK, HARUKA.
PLINK
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR HAIR!
DON'T BE INHUMAN! HAVE A HEART TO HEART WITH ME!
I JUST SAID THAT I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET YOUR HAIR CUT TODAY— AND SINCE WHEN DO YOU CARE ABOUT FASHION?!
AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR TALK!

HMM... HE'S LATE.
!
IT'S A DATE!
FINE-I GIVE UP WAIT FOR ME IN FRONT OF THE RYOURONKKAKU.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE HARUKA AND I WENT INTO TOWN JUST FOR FUN..
WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME FOR IT LATELY.
天ぷら
三十銭
HOW LONG CAN IT TAKE TO CUT SOME HAIR?
THEN WE COULD SEE SOME CRYSTAL WORK ON OUR WAY HOME.
AND I FOUND A CAFE I THINK HARUKA MIGHT LIKE.
MAYBE WE COULD GO TO THAT MEAL SET PLACE FOR LUNCH.

tactics 6

ステーコ
M-MISS REIKO!
WHY ARE YOU HANGING AROUND HERE, SENSEI?

GASP!


DAMMIT, KANTAROU– THIS IS IMPORTANT!
I HAVE TO FIND OUT ABOUT HARUKA'S PAST BEFORE–
WELL, WELL! ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI!
HUH?!

OH, LIKE FOR A TALKY? OR SOME SIGHTSEEING? EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE A DEADLINE TOMORROW?
I WAS JUST... WAITING FOR SOMEONE.

IS IT REALLY?! I TAKE BACK EVERYTHING I SAID!
ACTUALLY, THE PROJECT'S DONE.
EVEN IF IT'S A SUPER ROUGH DRAFT, AS LONG AS I STICK TO MY DEADLINE
SAY SOMETHING, SENSEI.
.....

HAKODATE.
GOT IT! I SWEAR I WON'T LET YOUR EFFORTS GO TO WASTE!
THAT'S AWFUL!
WHERE WAS THE PLACE?! I'LL GO GRAB IT FOR YOU!
!
BUT WAIT!
WHAT?!
AND AFTER I PISSED BLOOD WITH ALL MY EFFORTS!
I-I'M SO SORRY.. I LEFT THE DRAFT BACK WHERE I WAS COLLECTING ALL MY DATA!
YAAAAH!
WHAT DO I DO MISS REIKO?!
to
HUH?
I SEE YOU, MY SWEET!
PLEASE...
LIKE I HAVE THE MONEY TO GO SOMEWHERE THAT FAR AWAY SHE'S LOSING HER EDGE.
PHEW...

TACKLE!
GWEH!
SU-
SUGINO-SAMA?
GOTCHA, MUU-CHAN!
ITTO
HAH!
HMPH!
スチャッ
MUUUUUU-!

HEH HEH...
WELL, MUU-CHAN AND I ARE GOING THERE ON A DATE!
OH, THIS?
YOU KNOW THE RYOUU-NKAKU, RIGHT?
YO, KANTAROU!
YOU'RE... WEARING A TAILCOAT. AND THOSE PANTS!
THIS IS THE FIGHT TO DECIDE IT ALL!
THE STAGE PREP-ARATIONS ARE COMPLETE!
DECIDE WHAT?
DEMON EATER'S NOT WITH YOU?
THAT'S WEIRD, KANTAROU.
WHY THE HELL WOULD I WANT TO?!
EH, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T INTERRUPT US.
IS THAT RIGHT..
HE'S SUPPOSED TO JOIN ME AT SOME POINT.

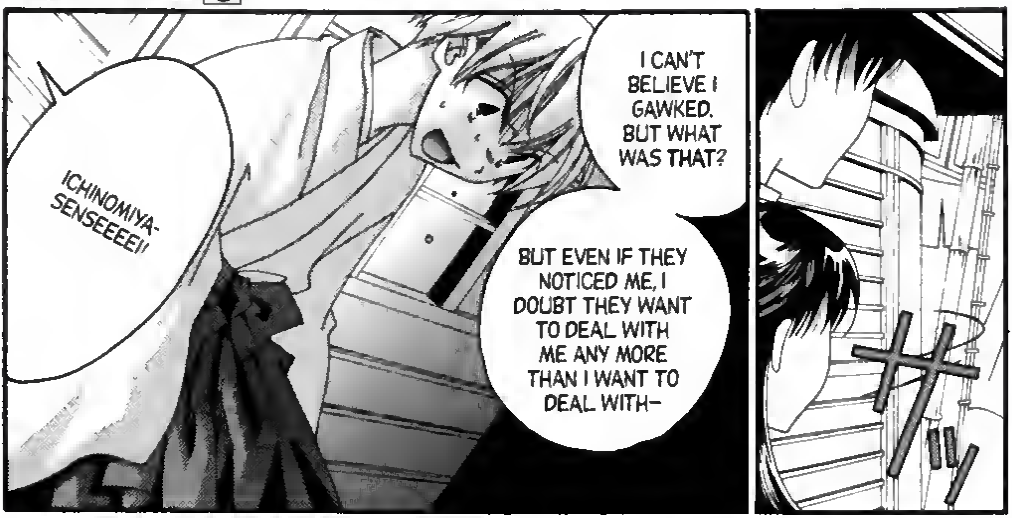
tactics 6

MUU-CHAN, NOOOOO!
SEE YOU LATER.
BYE, MUU-CHAN.
MUU!
I SAW YOU GIVE MUU-CHAN THAT COME-HITHER LOOK!
I-I'M NOT! I SWEAR I'M—MY FACE!
WHAT OIO I JUST TELL YOU ABOUT INTERRUPTING, KANTAROU?!
HOW OARE YOU TAKE A NAP IN THE MIOOLE OF THE STREET, ICHINOMIYA!
HUH?
I RYOUKAN HASUMI CHAMPION OF PEDESTRIAN MORALS...
—WILL CORRECT YOUR OELINQUENT TENDENCIES ONCE ANO FOR ALL!
TRY THAT AGAIN ANO I'LL SHOVE YOU OFF THE TOP OF THE RYOUUNKAKU
YOU'RE... AN ASS.

...WHAT?!
..I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DONE, HASUMI.
I JUST RAN INTO YOUR EDITOR. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FED HER THAT LIE--SHE RAN HOME IN TEARS! IF YOU TURN HER INTO A MALICIOUS PERSON, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO REMEDY THAT?! BEFORE YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT HAVING PRIDE AS A WRITER, YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE YOUR EMBARRASSMENT AS A HUMAN BEING!
COULD WE SAVE IT FOR TOMORROW? I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT--
HASUMI! YOUR PANTIES ARE IN A BUNCH QUICKER THAN USUAL TODAY.
YOU'RE NOT KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA! FAREWELL!
ER, SORRY-- I'VE GOT THE WRONG MAN.
OH.
W-WAIT A MINUTE...
THANK YOU!
OH, I JUST CAN'T SAY IT ENOUGH. THANK YOU!
I-I'VE FINALLY SEEN THE LIGHT! I HATE ALL THE WRONGDOINGS I'VE EVER DONE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP-- LET ME THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR EXISTING!
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
DON'T TEASE RYOUKAN LIKE THAT.

GREAT. NOW HASUMI'S GOT A BODYGUARD TO SPOIL ALL MY FUN.
タ・タ・タ・
HARUKA SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE
NOW, TO KEEP FROM RUNNING INTO ANYBODY ELSE—
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE HOME WRITING TODAY?
WHOA! KAN-CHAN!
H-HEY THERE, YOUKO-CHAN I ALREADY FINISHED THE SCRIPT.
I'M GOING TO MEET UP WITH HARUKA NOW. AND DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TODAY?
AW, YOU'RE GONNA VISIT THE RYOUUNKAKU WITH HARUKA-CHAN? ENVY.
AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK.
I'M CATERING AT THIS COFFEE SHOP.
I SWEAR, EVEN AT THE BEST OF TIMES, WE'RE UNDERSTAFFED AS HELL.
I KNOW! IF YOU'RE FREE, WHY DON'T YOU HELP OUT?
THE LADY CUSTOMERS WOULD LOVE HARUKA-CHAN. ♡
ギュ
TUC
HUH?
YOUKO-CHAN...

GO BACK TO YOUR CATERING, YOUKO-CHAN. ♡
I-I HATE YOU, PRICK!
I THINK YOU MEAN "LIEGE."
HA HA HA! THERE ARE MANY PATHS OF ESCAPE IN THIS WORLD, AND I'VE MASTERED THEM ALL!
I'M A MAN OF MANY TALENTS!
I'M TELLING YOU, AYAME— YOU'RE ADORABLE. THOSE CLOTHES WOULD LOOK GREAT ON YOU.
HMM?
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT, BROTHER.
ぽかーん


ICHINOMIYA-SENSEEEEI!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I GAWKED. BUT WHAT WAS THAT?
BUT EVEN IF THEY NOTICED ME, I DOUBT THEY WANT TO DEAL WITH ME ANY MORE THAN I WANT TO DEAL WITH—

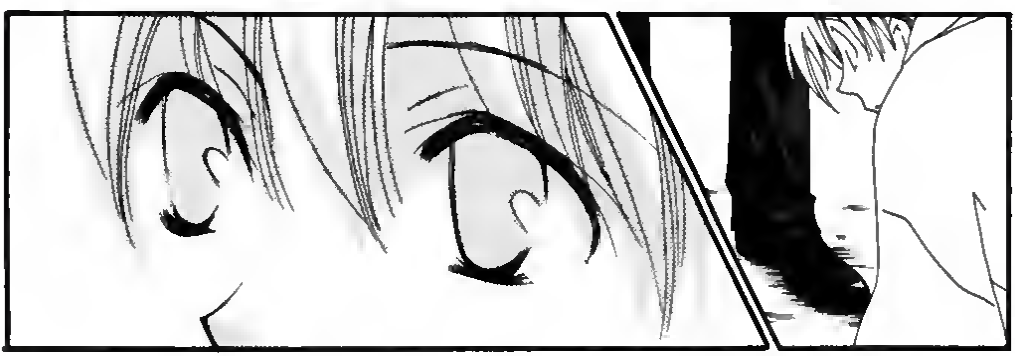
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING FOR?
HEY THERE! ♡
Yes?!

THIS IS BAD. I NEED TO GET TEAM MINAMOTO OUT OF HERE BEFORE HARUKA SEES US TOGETHER AND STORMS OFF IN A HUFF.
NICE...TO MEET YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME.
Wow, she's thick.
SENSEI, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY OLDER BROTHER THIS IS RAIKOU MINAMOTO
BROTHER, THIS IS ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI.

HUNH--SO HE'S NOT WITH THE DEMON EATER TODAY. HE SHOULD KNOW IT'D BE SAFER TO LEAVE THE TENGU SOMEWHERE NEARBY. BUT HE'S ALONE RIGHT NOW, AND HE DOES SEEM NERVOUS. BUT MAYBE THE DEMON EATER WILL BE HERE SOON.
THE PLEASURE'S ALL MINE. IT'S AN HONOR MEETING THE ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI
RAIKOU MINAMOTO, WAS IT? IT'S A PLEASURE.
BUT HOW DO I GET THEM TO GO HOME? I COULD GET PRETTY CRUDE, SINCE I DON'T CARE MUCH ABOUT AYAME-CHAN. BUT THEN HE MIGHT SIT TIGHT HERE ON PURPOSE JUST TO BE A PRICK. I HAVE TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING!
MAN, I'D LOVE TO SEE THE LOOK ON DEMON EATER'S FACE IF HE SEES US HERE LIKE THIS! BUT SENSEI IS PROBABLY GOING TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO GET ME TO LEAVE, AND I'M NOT EXACTLY HOPING TO STICK AROUND.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS RECENTLY. I'LL BE WAITING FOR THE ACTIVITIES YOU PARTAKE IN HEREAFTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF JAPAN'S CULTURE.
HONOR? OH, PLEASE. I'M BUT A MERE FOLKLORIST.
HOLD IT. THIS GUY PROBABLY ALREADY HAS AN IDEA OF WHOM I'M WAITING FOR HERE. IS HE PLANNING ON MEETING HARUKA?! CRAP.
AND AYAME, I'M PERFECT AS I AM--BUT I STILL HAVE AYAME AS MY ONE AND ONLY WEAKNESS. IF THIS ASSHOLE TRIES TO USE AYAME TO SEND US AWAY, THEN I...
I HOPE I CAN TALK WITH YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SENSEI. I'D APPRECIATE ANY LIFE ADVICE YOU MIGHT HAVE FOR A NOVICE LIKE ME.
YOU HOLD ME IN SUCH HIGH REGARD. I'M REASSURED TO SEE A YOUNG MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF IN THE ARMY.
I KNOW, BUT I TO BREAK THIS DEADLOCK. AYAME-CHAN'S MY ONLY HOPE. IT'S NOT FAIR TO HER, BUT I'LL HAVE TO USE HER AS A DUPE, BASED ON HOW THEY WERE EARLIER. HE'S PROBABLY TRYING TO KEEP THE SWEET OLDER BROTHER CARD WITH HER.

WE'D BETTER GET GOING, AYAME. WE'LL BE LATE FOR OUR RESTAURANT RESERVATION.
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. TAKE CARE, SENSEI!
LISTEN, AYAME-CHAN—
I'M OUT OF TIME. TIME TO PLAY MY HAND!

DO I KNOW ANY MORE PEOPLE I COULD POSSIBLY RUN INTO?
...OH, HELL.



HARUKAAA!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
HUH?
SO, WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT?
YOUR LOSS, I GUESS...
CRUD... NOW I DON'T REMEMBER!

...I HAVEN'T BEEN TO SUGINO VILLAGE IN A WHILE.
I GUESS IT'S THE TENGU IN ME THAT FEELS BETTER IN THE MOUNTAINS
WHA?!

SIDE STORY 3

Thank you so much for buying Tactics Volume 6.
♡

I must say, the main story's turning out quite well. Haruka, hang in there!

With the story having gotten so far, it makes me want to write what's going to happen next right away! I want to write so bad, I can't take it anymore! But my physical strength can't keep up with that desire for productivity!

Yaaargh!

The demon-eating tengu Shinobuyo Fuji Soushi arc still has a ways to go. There's a lot I want to write. And I'm gonna do my best!

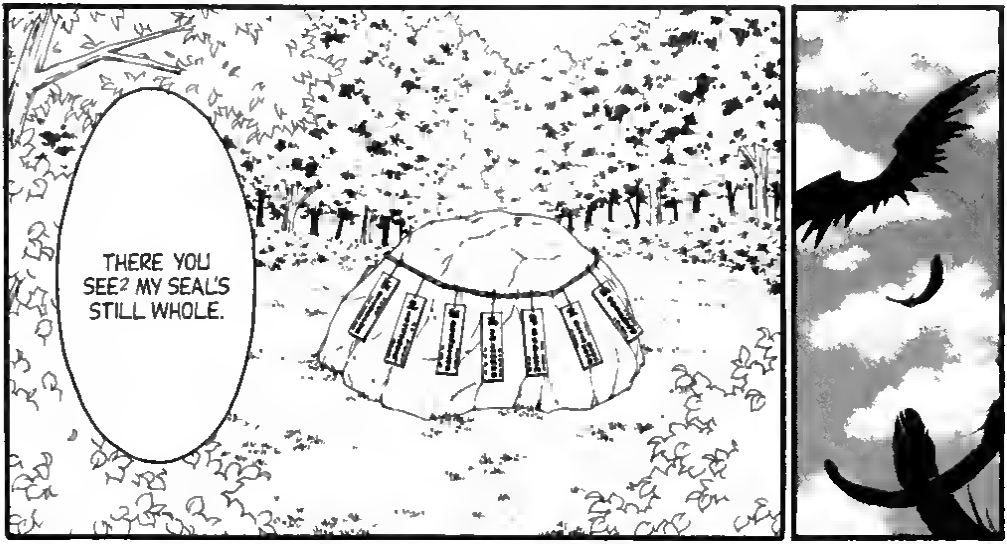
Well, let's see each other again in Volume 7!

2005.3
木下さくら

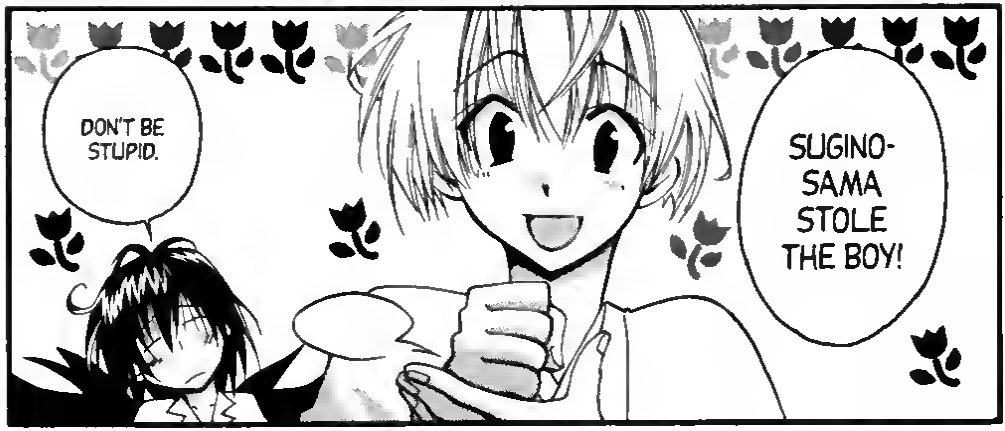
Sakura Kinoshita

PEOPLE ARE GETTING SPIRITED AWAY AGAIN?!
WHY ARE YOU SCREAMING, KANTAROU? I WAS TRYING TO BE PENSIVE.
EXACTLY, KANTAROU.
THIS WOMAN'S SON KINSAKU DISAPPEARED.
KINSAKU'S A BAD LITTLE BOY—AN AWFUL LITTLE BOY, EVEN.
WHEN I TRIED TO PREACH TO HIM, HE RAN FROM THE HOUSE AND INTO THE MOUNTAINS. HE HASN'T BEEN BACK FOR TWO DAYS.
THAT JUST SOUNDS LIKE A RUNAWAY.

UM...
PLEASE SAVE KINSAKU FROM WHATEVER EVIL CREATURES ARE OUT THERE!
AND THE SPIRITED AWAY INSTANCES FROM BEFORE WERE NEVER FULLY RESOLVED, RIGHT? YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE, SENSEI!
ERRR...
THEY WOULDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO RUN AWAY!
NO! MY SONS ARE ALL TOO SPOILED TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES!
PHEW...
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT BOY JUST GOT INTO AN ACCIDENT SOMEWHERE.
YOU NEVER DID FULLY SEAL THAT YOUKAI. MAYBE HE'S BACK.
I'M A BIT MORE THOROUGH THAN THAT, HARUKA.
MGGHFF!
WELL, I GUESS I'D BETTER RESCUE HIM. LET'S GO, HARUKA.


THERE YOU SEE? MY SEAL'S STILL WHOLE.

I KNEW IT...
AND I DON'T FEEL ANY YOUKAI AROUND


DON'T BE STUPID.
SUGINO-SAMA STOLE THE BOY!

MY FEET HURT! I WANNA GO HOOOME!
UWHAAA! I'M HUNGRY!
WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN, THE MONSTERS'LL GET ME!
FINE, FINE! THEN HELP ME FIND MUU-CHAN FIRST.
BUT I'M LOST— SNIFF—SO I CAN'T MAKE IT HOME ALONE.
THEN SHUT UP AND DO IT! I ALREADY TOLD YOU I'M BUSY!
MUU-CHAAAN! WHERE ARE YOOOU?
UWHAAA!

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT WOULD HAPPEN TO US, BUT I SEE THE LIGHT NOW.
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT THE ROUGH PATCHES MARRIED COUPLES GO THROUGH. IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
BUT WE MAKE SUCH A CUTE COUPLE, Y'KNOW?
SO THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A "FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY."
MUU-CHAN'S NEVER RUN AWAY FROM HOME BEFORE.
ぎゃしゃば

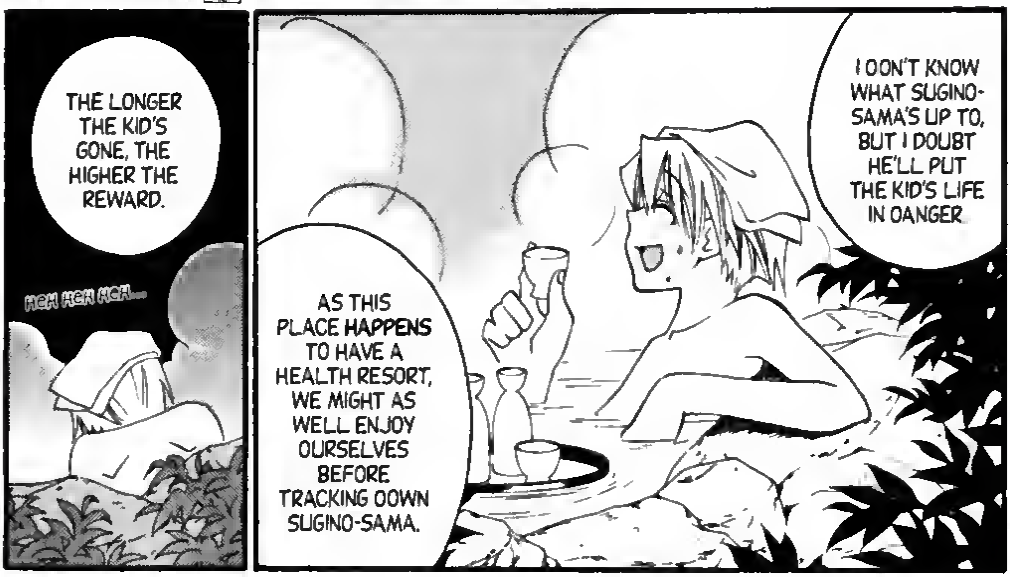
THIS IS THE SIGN THAT WE HAVE TO RECONFIRM OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER!

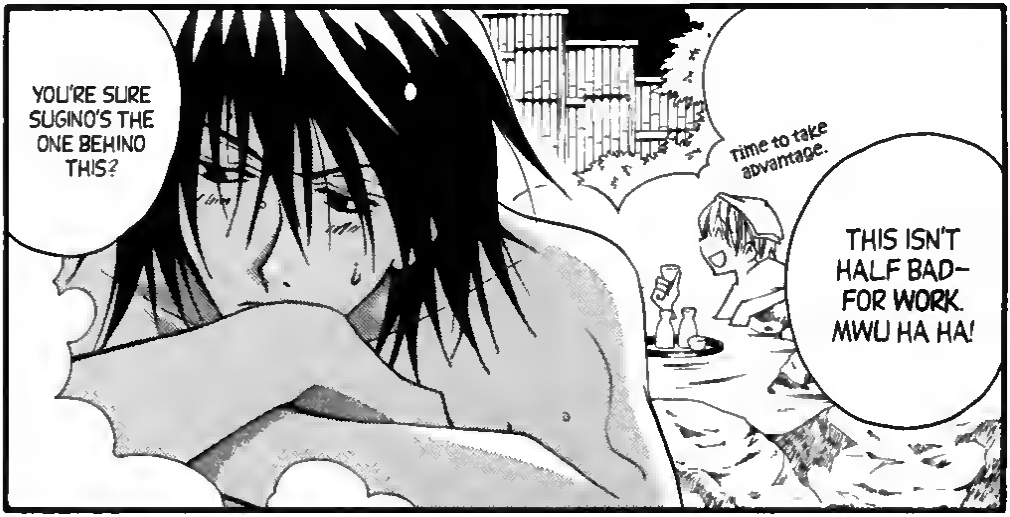
THEN GO EAT THOSE WILD PLANTS OVER THERE.
WHAAAA?!

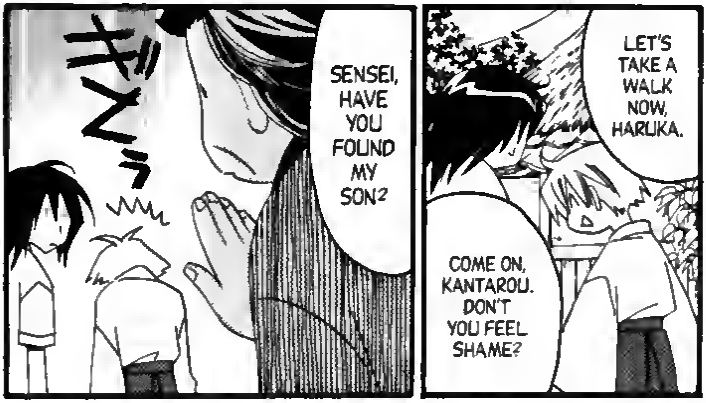
I'M, UH, HUNGRY, TOO.
HMM?!
ぐぅぅぅ

I UNDERSTAND, MUU-CHAN! I'LL FIND YOU—JUST YOU WAIT!
UM, I CAUGHT A FISH
ぴちぴち

とりゃー
ポテ
WELL, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A GOD THAT GOT DITCHED BY HIS WOMAN!
YOU'RE SO MEAN! DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'RE A GOD THAT PROTECTS MY KIND?
AND I USUALLY DO! BUT RIGHT NOW I'M HAVING AN EMERGENCY, SO MY LOYAL SUBJECTS HAVE TO SUPPORT ME
GYAAH! I'M SORRY! AND I'M ALREADY LOST!
AND HOW DARE YOU SHOOT YOUR MOUTH OFF AT ME WHEN YOU'VE NEVER WORKED A DAY IN YOUR LIFE. GET LOST!
YOU COCKY LITTLE TURD.
WHOO-WEE!
THAT FEELS GOOD


THE LONGER THE KID'S GONE, THE HIGHER THE REWARD.
HEH HEH HEH...
AS THIS PLACE HAPPENS TO HAVE A HEALTH RESORT, WE MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY OURSELVES BEFORE TRACKING DOWN SUGINO-SAMA.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SUGINO-SAMA'S UP TO, BUT I DOUBT HE'LL PUT THE KID'S LIFE IN DANGER.


YOU'RE SURE SUGINO'S THE ONE BEHIND THIS?
time to take advantage.
THIS ISN'T HALF BAD— FOR WORK. MWU HA HA!


SENSEI, HAVE YOU FOUND MY SON?
LET'S TAKE A WALK NOW, HARUKA.
COME ON, KANTAROU. DON'T YOU FEEL SHAME?

THE ONE WHO SPIRITED YOUR LITTLE BOY AWAY IS A TENGU. I WAS STORING UP THE ENERGY I'LL NEED TO DO BATTLE WITH HIS YOUKAI KIND!
WHAT?
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT TENGU ARE? THE ON ARU MAYA TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TENGU SOWAKA!*
WE'RE DEALING WITH A TENGU HERE!
AN INVOICE FOR A BANQUET HELD AT THE INN LAST NIGHT CAME TO MY HOME. HAVE YOU BEEN STAYING AT THE HOT SPRINGS RESORT THIS WHOLE TIME?
DEAR MADAM!
FAMOUS TENGU INCLUDE TAROUBOU OF MT. ATAGO AND JIROUBOU OF MT. HIRAMA. MT. REIZAN IS ALSO INHABITED BY TENGU.
THEN THERE'S MAOUSON OF MT. KURAMA, WHO IS KNOWN AS THE GREAT TENGU OF KURAMA. CALLED THE GODDESS VENUS, IN THE FIELD OF YIN AND YANG, HE'S A GOD WHO FAVORS WAR.
IF I DON'T OVERCOME THEM, YOUR SON WILL NEVER BE THE HEALTHY BOY HE ONCE WAS!
THEY'RE HORRIBLE CREATURES, CONSIDERED THE NATURAL ENEMY OF BUDDHISM. AND TO ONE SUCH AS MYSELF WHO DILIGENTLY PURSUES THE WAY OF ENLIGHTENMENT, I MUST SOMETIMES RESORT TO BREAKING BUDDHIST PRECEPTS TO BRING THEM DOWN.
I... I SEE.
YOU'RE ALREADY BREAKING BUDDHIST PRECEPTS...
"I'M AN EXTERMINATOR AND THE WORK I'M DOING IN THIS VILLAGE IS VERY SIMPLE." WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE THOUGHT OF THAT? SHE WAS DRINKING SAKE AND NOT LISTENING! SO SHE TELLS ME, "IF YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE YOU DANCE." SO I DID! AND BOY DID I EVER DANCE.
TO CONQUER THOSE FIENDS, FIRST I'LL NEED SAKE. AND A LADY FRIEND AND FOOD ACTUALLY. THE LEGS ON LAST NIGHT'S GEISHA WERE MOST BEWITCHING AND KUROKO AND HER LIPS. MM. DO YOU KNOW WHAT I TOLD HER?
OH, my.
OH.

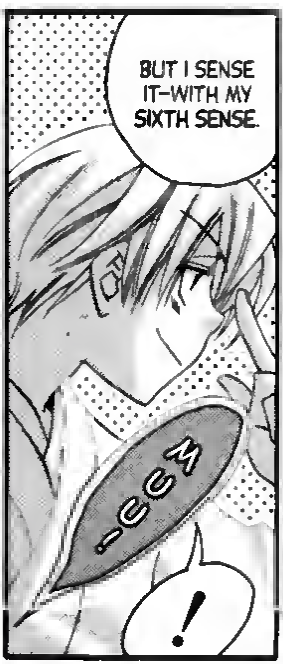
*Kantarou has taken a mantra that typically goes "on aru maya on gyuuman datsu sowaka" and replaced the m dolls part with "tens of thousands of tengu" to emphasize the s horridness

COME BACK TO ME, MY LOVE!
.....
MUU-chaaan~
!
!!
HUH? I CAN SEE THE VILLAGE.
I GUESS THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN'S CLOSE. MAYBE I CAN GET HOME!
SOB SOB SOB SOB SOB
I CAN'T TAKE THE LONELI-NESS, MUU-CHAN.
I MISS YOU...

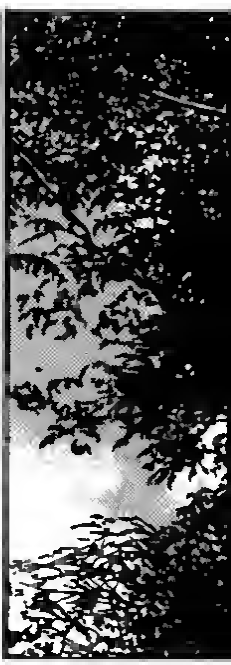
WE HAVEN'T CHECKED OVER THERE YET. LET'S GO.
YOU'RE RIGHT.. THANKS.
.....
CRYING WON'T HELP ANYONE LET'S FIND YOUR WIFE-TOGETHER.
THAT CLIENT'S SURE A GENEROUS SORT. SHE GAVE US AN ADVANCE PAYMENT.
HMM?
LET'S GO, KANTAROU.
.....
AND I JUST KNEW THE HEALTH RESORT'S SAKA-MANJU WOULD BE THE BEST OF THE BEST! ONE MORE CUP, MISS

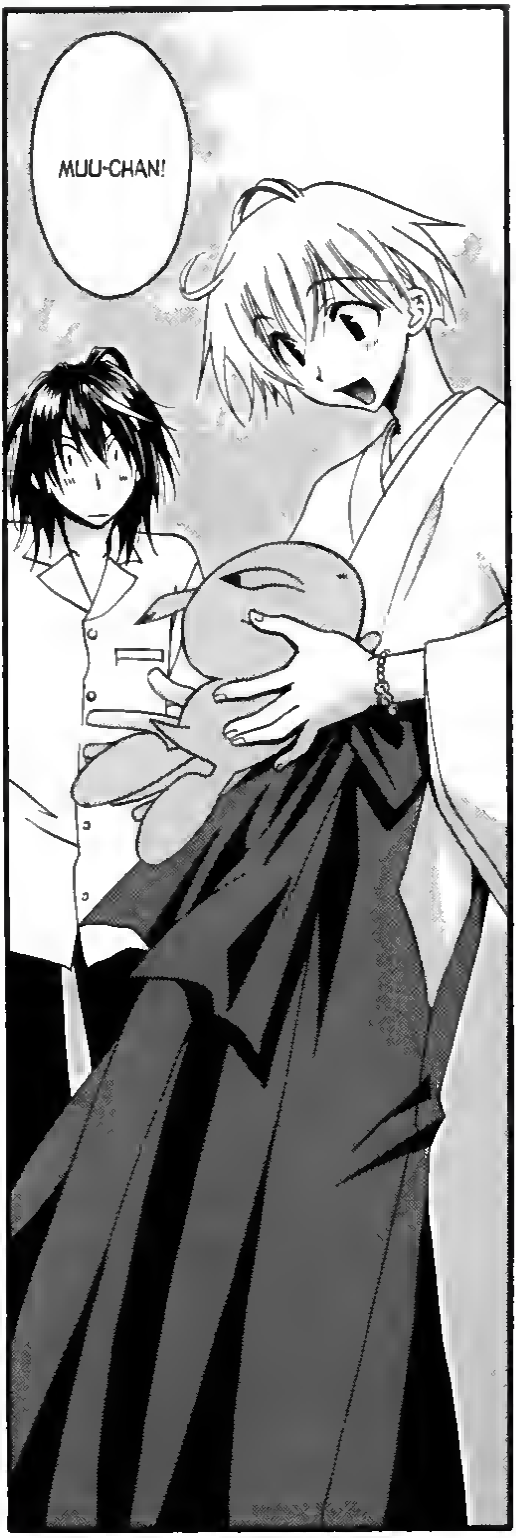
GYAAAHA!

OH?
HERE'S OUR SHOP'S FAMOUS SAKA-MAN-


BUT I SENSE IT—WITH MY SIXTH SENSE.
-EEM
!

JUST SHUT UP AND DO YOUR JOB.
YOU'RE SO MEAN, HARUKA! WHAT ABOUT MY SAKA-MANJU?!
THE KID MIGHT NOT EVEN BE WITH SUGINO.





MUU-CHAAAAAN!

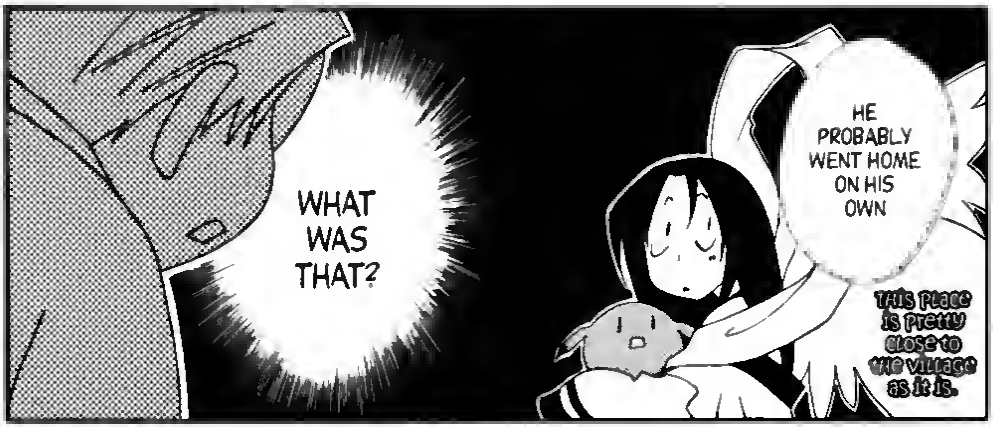
BUT I'M ALREADY... HALLUCINATING? HUH?
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP NOW HAVE SOME WATER.
BOO HOO HOO! I DON'T THINK I CAN GO ON.
HERE'S SOME WATER.
GAH, IT'S NO GOOD! MY VOICE IS ALL...
MUU-CHAAAAAN!
Hey!
I WAS SO WORRIED, BY BASTION OF BLISS! I LOVE YOU, MUU-CHAN!
NEVER LEAVE ME AGAIN!
Hey!

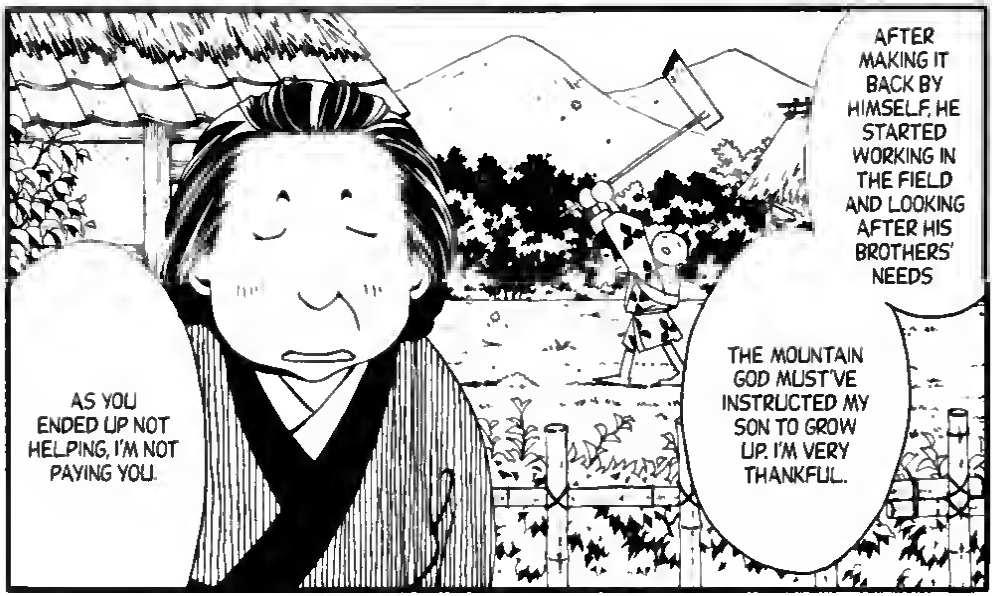
DEMON EATER AND KANTAROU WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
カリメ
TROUBLE IN PARADISE?
LET ME GUESS— SUGINO-SAMA WAS SMOTHERING MUU-CHAN AGAIN.
Grrr!
MUU-CHAN!
ポコン
HUH?
ヨキ

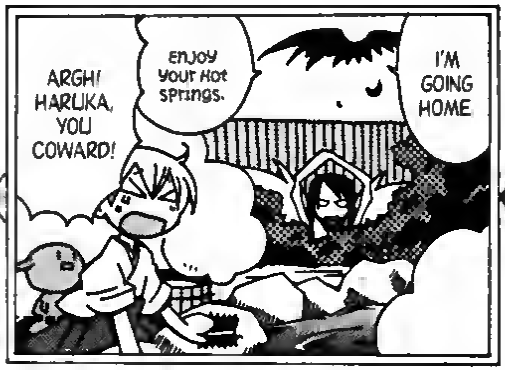
RETSU-
ZAI-
ZEN!
KAI-
JIN!
RIN-
PYOU!
TOU-
SHA!
GAAH!
WHA-
HEY!
CRAM IT, NERD! YOU'RE BUTTING INTO OUR FLAWLESS LOVE!
ON GYAKU-GYAKU UNHA..
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, SUGINO-SAMA?!

KANTAROU WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND HER
PERK
HERE.
MUU-CHAN!
STOP IT, SUGINO!
GYAH!
YAAAAH!
I can explain!
Great.
NOW I'M EVEN MORE PISSED!
GET OFF MY MOUNTAIN! NOW!

RIN- PYOU- TOU- SHA- KAI- JIN- RETSU- ZAI- ZEN!!
LISTEN!
AAH!
WAGH!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
LISTEN. I'M HERE BECAUSE SOMEBODY LOST HER KID.
HUFF
HUFF
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? HE'S SMALL, STUPID, PROBABLY UGLY.
KID? OH- RIGHT.
HEH HEH HEH... NOW I'LL JUST TAKE THE BOY HOME AND COLLECT MY REWARD!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONE.
Hee Hee!
HUH?
HEY! SNOT NOSE!
HA! SEE, HARU- KA?
I REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT
ISN'T MY INTUITION AMAZING?


WHAT WAS THAT?
HE PROBABLY WENT HOME ON HIS OWN
This place is pretty close to the village as it is.


AS YOU ENDED UP NOT HELPING, I'M NOT PAYING YOU.
THE MOUNTAIN GOD MUST'VE INSTRUCTED MY SON TO GROW UP. I'M VERY THANKFUL.
AFTER MAKING IT BACK BY HIMSELF, HE STARTED WORKING IN THE FIELD AND LOOKING AFTER HIS BROTHERS' NEEDS

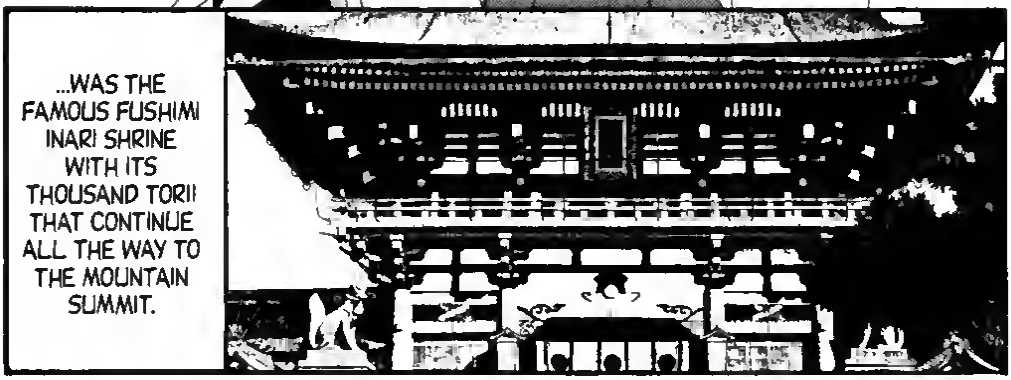

ARGH! HARUKA, YOU COWARD!
Enjoy your hot springs.
I'M GOING HOME.

Tactics 6
Many apologies, and thanks to Kinoshita-san, who carried me on her back for much of this part of the journey as well. Then there's the bonus illustrations I did for the limited edition PC game... I really can't wait to see what it looks like when it's all done!
I'm going to do my best so that one day I can write a manga involving this tengu duo.
Tactics is already at volume 6... I'm pretty surprised and impatient myself. Both Haruka-san and Kan-chan are having it pretty tough...as is Ayame, in a way. It'd make me so happy if you all continued to look after these folks. Thank you very much.
Kazuko Higashiyama
Whenever I draw these two together, it makes me want to have them dressed up in matching clothes...
I want to keep drawing Tactics for a long time to come. I want to draw the main story as well as the side stories. Right now, physical strength is what I want the most, though. Jeez. Such is the aging process... (cries)

Kyoto-Worshipping Chronicle 2

tactics mysterious tour in KYOTO

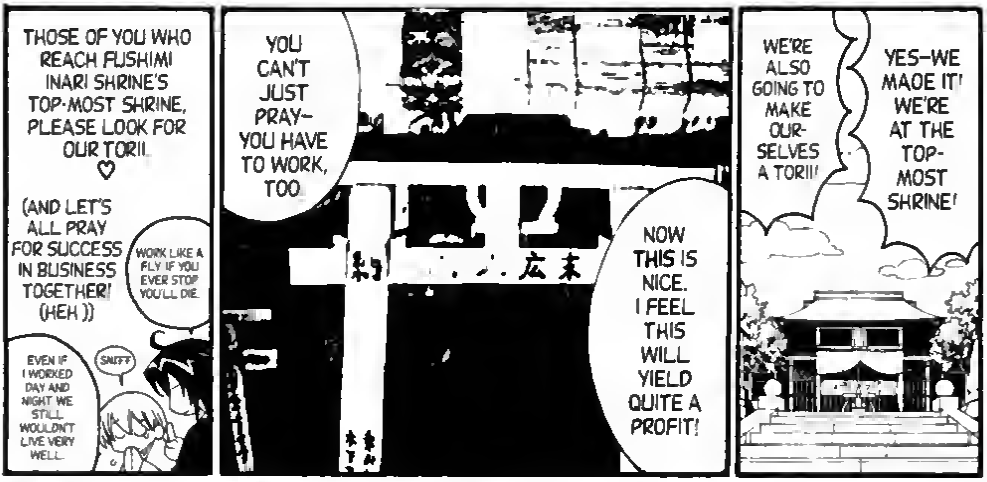
HELLO! THIS IS THE SECOND RUNNING OF THE KYOTO-WORSHIPPING CHRONICLE!
HUH? WHY WASTE TIME ON THIS AND NOT DRAW THE MAIN STORY, YOU ASK?
WE'RE MOST DEFINITELY NOT JUST PLAYING AROUND HERE!
BUT LOOK--THIS IS THE MANGA AT ITS BEST!
THOSE HOT SPRINGS FELT GOOD.
SILENCE, HARUKA! OKAY, SO THE FIRST PLACE WE WENT TO...

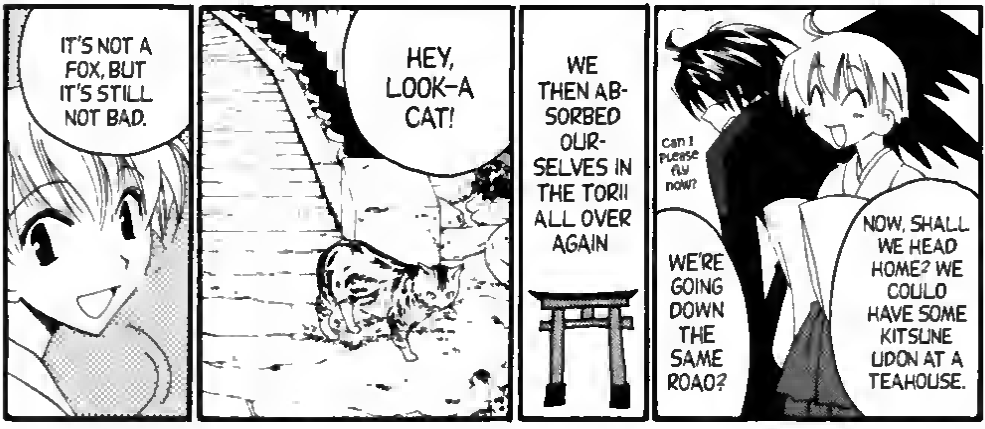


HUNH. SO WHAT DATA WILL YOU GET HERE?
THIS IS THE HEAD TEMPLE OF ALL THOSE SHRINES DEDICATED TO FOX SPIRITS AND INARI DEITIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

tactics 6

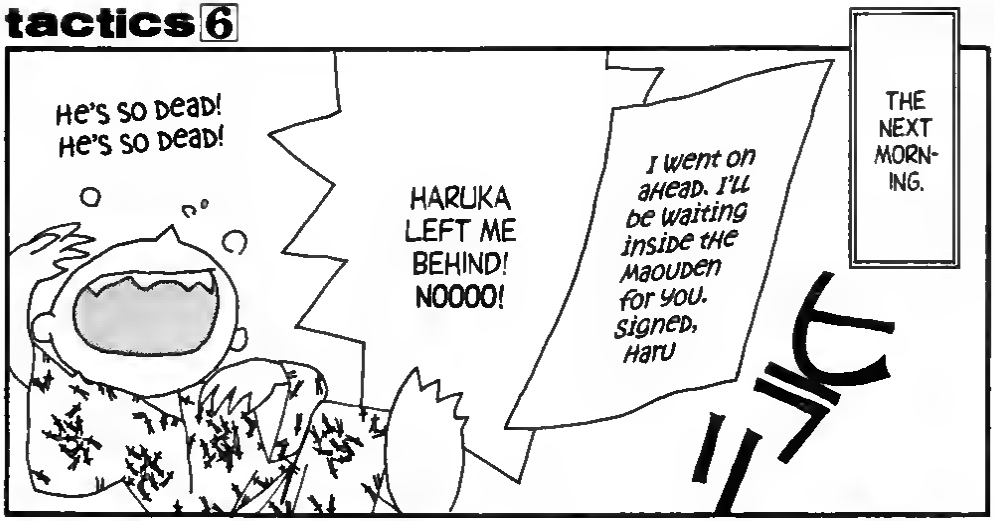
...BUT THERE WAS NOTHING BUT RED TORII AFTER RED TORII!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
Can I just fly?
Almost there.
HUFF HUFF
We'll get there soon enough.
My legs are all... wobbly.
WE CLIMBED AND WE CLIMBED ...

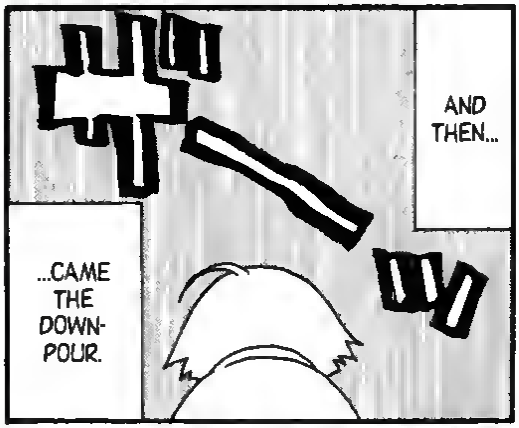

THOSE OF YOU WHO REACH FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE'S TOP-MOST SHRINE, PLEASE LOOK FOR OUR TORII ♡
(AND LET'S ALL PRAY FOR SUCCESS IN BUSINESS TOGETHER! (HEH))
WORK LIKE A FLY IF YOU EVER STOP YOU'LL DIE.
SNIFF
EVEN IF I WORKED DAY AND NIGHT WE STILL WOULDN'T LIVE VERY WELL.
YOU CAN'T JUST PRAY- YOU HAVE TO WORK, TOO.
NOW THIS IS NICE. I FEEL THIS WILL YIELD QUITE A PROFIT!
WE'RE ALSO GOING TO MAKE OUR-SELVES A TORII!
YES-WE MADE IT! WE'RE AT THE TOP-MOST SHRINE!


IT'S NOT A FOX, BUT IT'S STILL NOT BAD.
HEY, LOOK-A CAT!
WE THEN ABSORBED OUR-SELVES IN THE TORII ALL OVER AGAIN
Can I please fly now?
WE'RE GOING DOWN THE SAME ROAD?
NOW, SHALL WE HEAD HOME? WE COULD HAVE SOME KITSUNE UDON AT A TEAHOUSE.

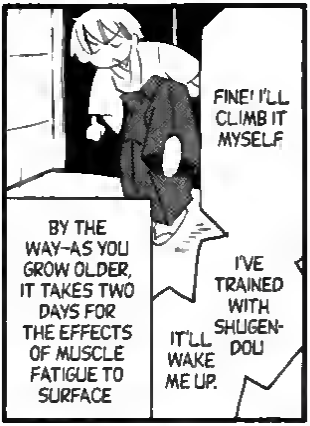
UM...
I CAN'T MOVE.
QUIT PLAYING WITH THE CATS
WE HAVE TO GET DOWN THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE IT GETS DARK!
BYE, KITTIES
HUH?
SUDDENLY IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA.
WHAT'S THIS PLACE? WE NEVER PASSED THROUGH HERE!
OH, NO— WE'RE LOST! DID THOSE CATS BEWITCH US?!
DESPITE GETTING LOST, WE EVENTUALLY MADE IT TO THE KYOTO STATION HOTEL.
HEH HEH!
I SURE AM TUCKERED OUT FROM TODAY. WHERE SHOULD WE GO TOMORROW, HARUKA?
KYOTO
OF COURSE! THE PLACE FAMOUS FOR YOSHITSUNE, KURAMA, AND TENGU— MT. KURAMA!
YAHOOO
LET'S GO MEET IT'S PROTECTOR MAOU-SON!
MY LEGS ARE A MESS FROM OUR TRIP TO FUSHIMI TODAY.
YOU CAN BRING YOUR WINGS OUT TOMORROW
IF YOU COULD LET ME RIDE WITH YOU TO MAOUDEN, I'D BE MUCH OBLIGED.
I'M SO EXCITED! I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE?
.....
WHAT?!

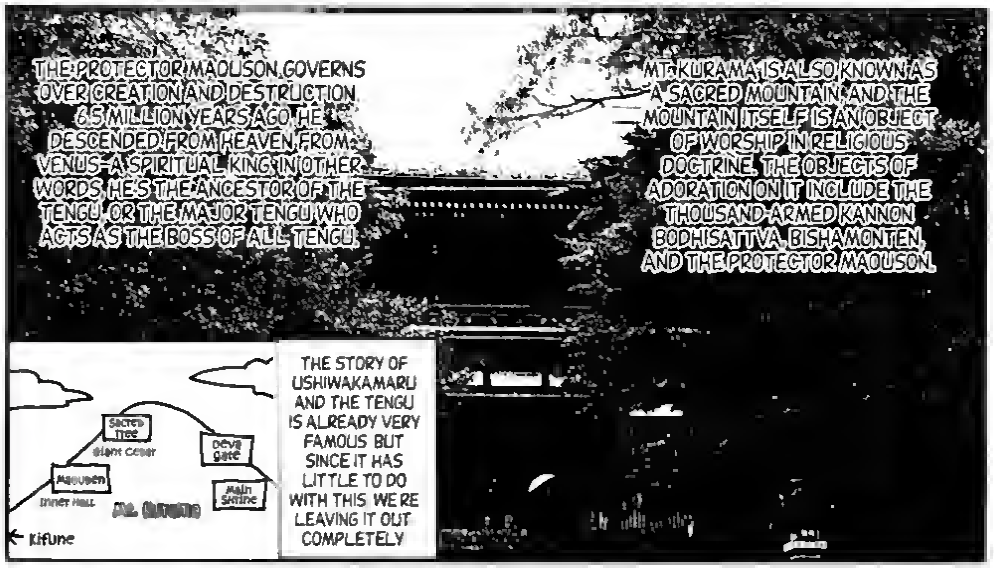
tactics 6

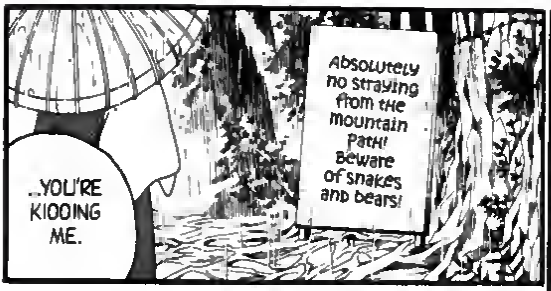

He's so dead! He's so dead!
HARUKA LEFT ME BEHIND! NOOOO!
I went on ahead. I'll be waiting inside the Maouden for you. signed, Haru
THE NEXT MORNING.


AND THEN...
...CAME THE DOWNPOUR.

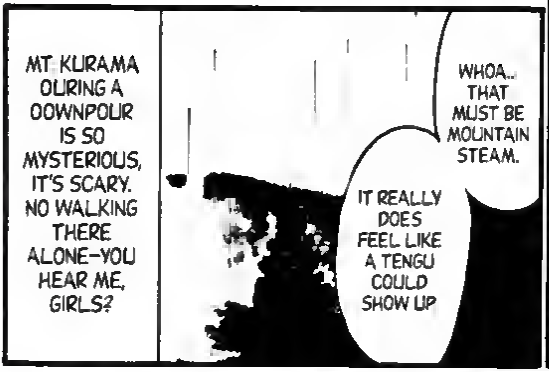
FROM MY SEARCH FOR TENGU, I'M USED TO THIS.
HUH?

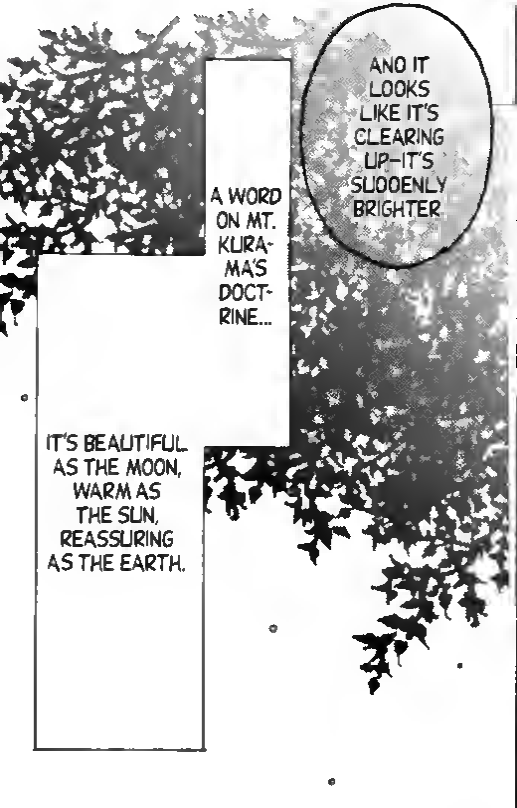

FINE! I'LL CLIMB IT MYSELF
I'VE TRAINED WITH SHUGENDOU
IT'LL WAKE ME UP.
BY THE WAY--AS YOU GROW OLDER, IT TAKES TWO DAYS FOR THE EFFECTS OF MUSCLE FATIGUE TO SURFACE


THE PROTECTOR MAOUSON GOVERNS OVER CREATION AND DESTRUCTION. 65 MILLION YEARS AGO HE DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN FROM VENUS. A SPIRITUAL KING. IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S THE ANCESTOR OF THE TENGU, OR THE MAJOR TENGU WHO ACTS AS THE BOSS OF ALL TENGU.
MT. KURAMA IS ALSO KNOWN AS A SACRED MOUNTAIN, AND THE MOUNTAIN ITSELF IS AN OBJECT OF WORSHIP IN RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE. THE OBJECTS OF ADORATION ON IT INCLUDE THE THOUSAND-ARMED KANNON BODHISATTVA, BISHAMONTEN, AND THE PROTECTOR MAOUSON.
Sacred Tree
Giant Cedar
Devil gate
Maouden
Inner Hall
Main Shrine
Kifune
THE STORY OF USHIWAKAMARU AND THE TENGU IS ALREADY VERY FAMOUS BUT SINCE IT HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH THIS WE'RE LEAVING IT OUT COMPLETELY

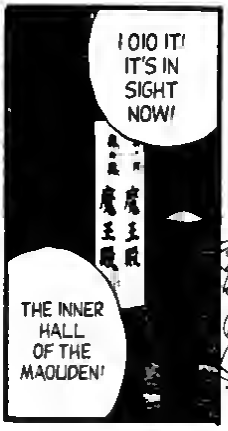

Absolutely no straying from the mountain path! Beware of snakes and bears!
..YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

HARUKAAA!
ACK, THIS IS SOME RAIN!
THERE'S NOBODY HERE, IT'S DARK, AND I'M COLD!
WHO'D CLIMB ALONE ON A DAY LIKE THIS?!


MT. KURAMA DURING A DOWNPOUR IS SO MYSTERIOUS, IT'S SCARY. NO WALKING THERE ALONE—YOU HEAR ME, GIRLS?
WHOA... THAT MUST BE MOUNTAIN STEAM.
IT REALLY DOES FEEL LIKE A TENGU COULD SHOW UP


AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S CLEARING UP—IT'S SUDDENLY BRIGHTER.
A WORD ON MT. KURAMA'S DOCTRINE...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL. AS THE MOON, WARM AS THE SUN, REASSURING AS THE EARTH.

THERE'S SOMETHING SO EMOTIONAL ABOUT THAT.
THIS MUST BE THE KIND OF PLACE HARUKA WAS RAISED IN.

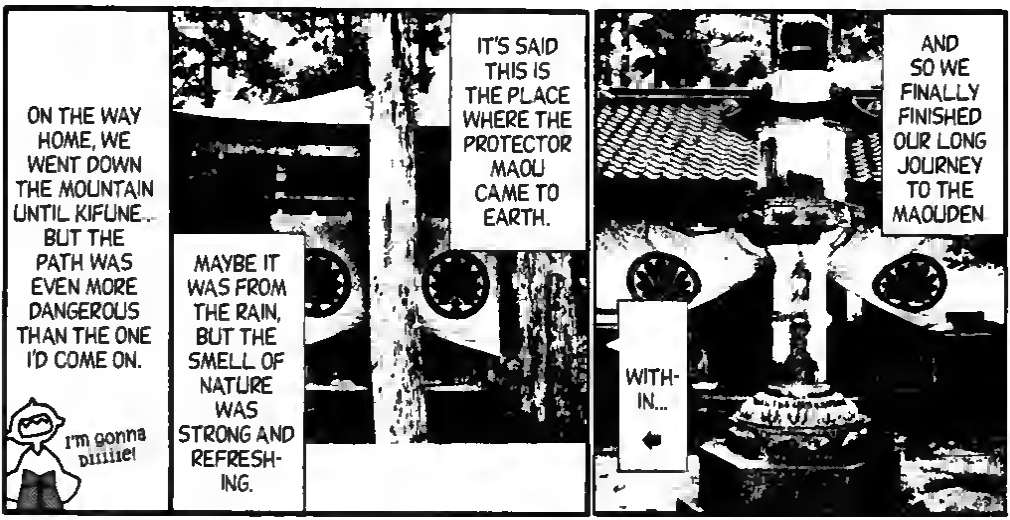

I DID IT! IT'S IN SIGHT NOW!
魔王殿
THE INNER HALL OF THE MAOUDEN!

HUFF
HUFF
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER UNTIL THE INNER HALL. I CAN DO THIS!

tactics 6

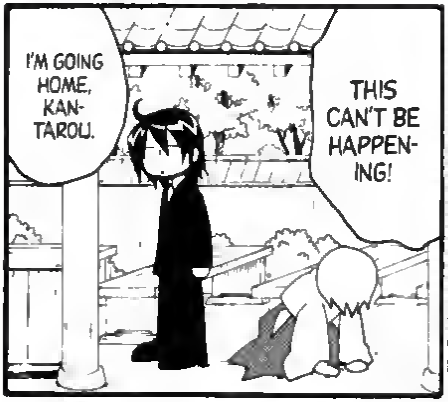
LOOK WHO FINALLY SHOWED UP.
You're late.
WHAT?
BUT...
SOB!
HEAVEN ABOVE, GRANT IT BLESSINGS TO ITS FILL...

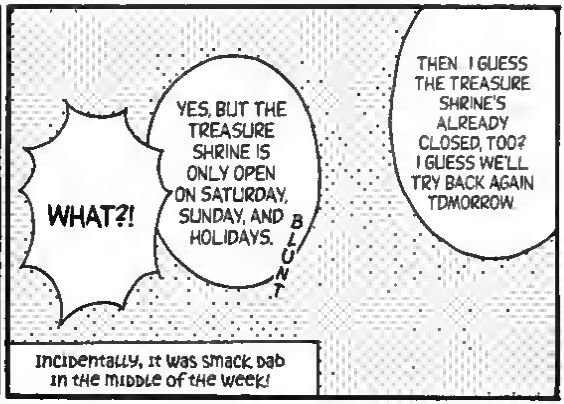
YOU FINISHED YOUR TRAINING? GOOD FOR YOU, KANTAROU.
YOU SUCK, HARUKA!


ON THE WAY HOME, WE WENT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN UNTIL KIFUNE... BUT THE PATH WAS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE ONE I'D COME ON.
I'm gonna diiiie!
MAYBE IT WAS FROM THE RAIN, BUT THE SMELL OF NATURE WAS STRONG AND REFRESHING.
IT'S SAID THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE PROTECTOR MAOU CAME TO EARTH.
WITHIN...
AND SO WE FINALLY FINISHED OUR LONG JOURNEY TO THE MAOUDEN.

WHERE ARE WE GOING TODAY KANTAROU?
TO HYOUGO PREFECTURE. OUR KYOTO STROLL IS OVER SO NOW WE STRETCH OUR LEGS.
WE'RE GOING TO TADA SHRINE.
TADA SHRINE? NEVER HEARD OF IT.
IN THE TADA HALL OF HYOUGO PREFECTURE'S KAWANISHI CITY IS TADA SHRINE THERE'S THE ENSHRINED DEITY MITSUNAKA MINAMOTO AND SUPPORTING GODS LIKE YORIMITSU MINAMOTO, YORINOBU, YORIYOSHI AND YOSHIIE.
BUT THERE'S NOBODY HERE. I THOUGHT THERE WAS A FESTIVAL TODAY
AT ANY RATE, LET'S GO IN.
Mitsunaka (Seiwa Minamoto)
Yorinobu (Genji Kawachi)
Yorichika (Genji Yamato)
Yorimitsu (Genji Setsu)
IN EMPEROR SEIWA'S FAMILY, HE EXCELLED IN THE PEN AND THE SWORD, AND SUPPORTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF REGENTS AND ADVISORS OF THE TIME. HE BASED HIS EFFORTS IN THIS HERE TADA REGION
OFFICIAL MITSUNAKA MINAMOTO WAS YORIMITSU'S FATHER
That's why Tada is called the origin of Genji Seiwa.
Shrine Office
WHEN'S THE FESTIVAL TODAY, SIR?
THE MAJOR FESTIVAL FOR AUTUMN IS OVER.
WHAT?! BUT THAT'S SO FAST! OR MAYBE I'M JUST SLOW?

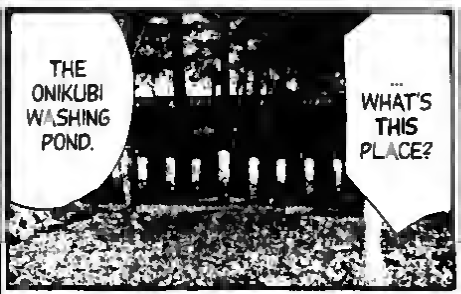
tactics 6

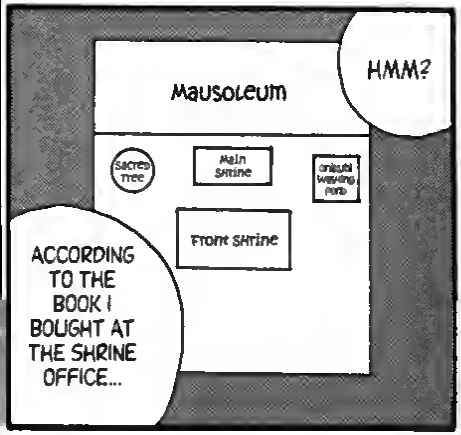

I'M GOING HOME, KAN-TAROU.
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPEN-ING!


WHAT?!
YES, BUT THE TREASURE SHRINE IS ONLY OPEN ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND HOLIDAYS.
BLUNT
THEN I GUESS THE TREASURE SHRINE'S ALREADY CLOSED, TOO? I GUESS WE'LL TRY BACK AGAIN TOMORROW.
Incidentally, it was smack dab in the middle of the week!

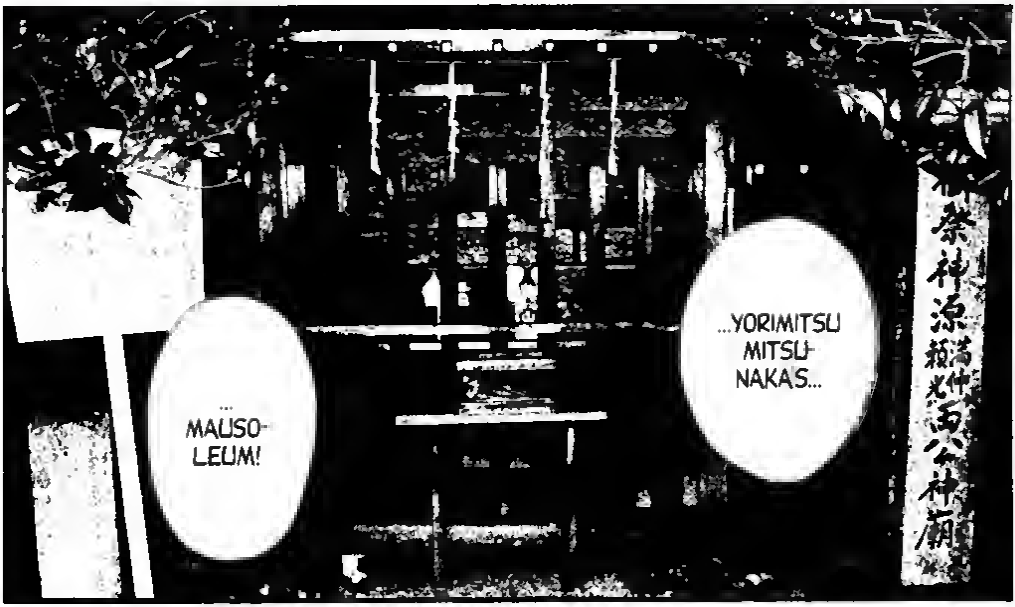
WAIT! THIS CAN'T BE THE ONLY PLACE!
GASP!

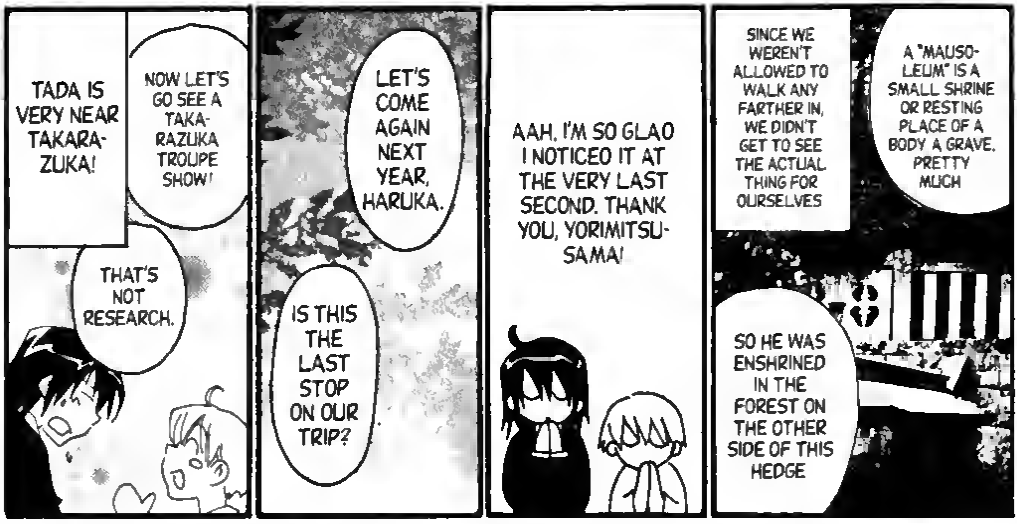
...THIS IS...


THE ONIKUBI WASHING POND.
...WHAT'S THIS PLACE?


HMM?
Mausoleum
Sacred tree
Main shrine
Onikubi washing pond
Front shrine
ACCORDING TO THE BOOK I BOUGHT AT THE SHRINE OFFICE...

MUTTER
SHRINES HAVE SACRED PRECINCTS DIRECTLY BEHIND THEIR MAIN SHRINES
MUTTER
HEY, WAIT!
ARE YOU POSSESSED BY SOME-THING?




TADA IS VERY NEAR TAKARAZUKA!
NOW LET'S GO SEE A TAKARAZUKA TROUPE SHOW!
THAT'S NOT RESEARCH.
LET'S COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR, HARUKA.
IS THIS THE LAST STOP ON OUR TRIP?
AAH, I'M SO GLAD I NOTICED IT AT THE VERY LAST SECOND. THANK YOU, YORIMITSU-SAMA!
SINCE WE WEREN'T ALLOWED TO WALK ANY FARTHER IN, WE DIDN'T GET TO SEE THE ACTUAL THING FOR OURSELVES
A "MAUSOLEUM" IS A SMALL SHRINE OR RESTING PLACE OF A BODY A GRAVE, PRETTY MUCH
SO HE WAS ENSHRINED IN THE FOREST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS HEDGE

AT TADA SHRINE, THERE'S A FESTIVAL TO HONOR GENJI EVERY SECOND SUNDAY IN APRIL (IT'S CALLED THE GENJI FESTIVAL). I REALLY WANT TO GO TO THAT NEXT YEAR!

AND THEN WE'LL HIT UP THE TREASURE SHRINE!

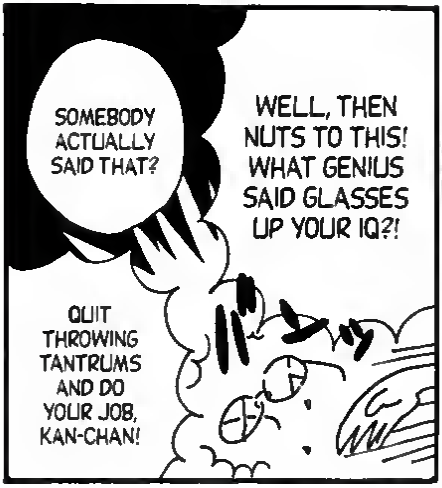
tactics 6 THE END

The limited edition of the 6th volume of the manga came with a CD-ROM (for Windows) containing a visual novel! Wow. I used to make little games on my own just for kicks, but to think that I'd get to put that hobby to actual use here! This one involves Haruka's tea bowl turning into a tsukumogami and running away. That's why I think it worked out perfectly that this bonus manga also involves tsukumogami.

by Sakura

GYAAAH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! I CAN'T DO MY WORK LIKE THIS!
MY FOUNTAIN PEN RAN AWAY ON ME!
DID YOU EVEN LOOK FOR IT, KAN-CHAN?
YOU'RE LOUD IT'S EARLY
I'VE BEEN LOOKING SINCE MORNING! AND I HAVE A DEADLINE COMING UP!
GOD'S ABANDONED POOR, INNOCENT ME. I GIVE UP.
I'M GOING TO SLEEP OUT OF SPITE
KANTA-ROU, YOU...
WHAT, HARUKA?
...LOOK TERRIBLE IN GLASSES.
GEE, THANKS FOR MENTIONING THAT!

tactics 6

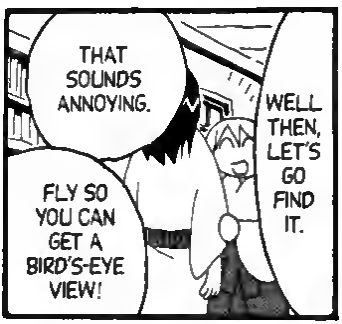

SOMEBODY ACTUALLY SAID THAT?
WELL, THEN NUTS TO THIS! WHAT GENIUS SAID GLASSES UP YOUR IQ?!
QUIT THROWING TANTRUMS AND DO YOUR JOB, KAN-CHAN!
バンッ

YOU LOOK LIKE THE COMIC RELIEF.
GET RID OF THEM, KAN-CHAN
REALLY?!

I FIGURED I WASN'T A PROPER NERD WITHOUT A PAIR
YOU'RE JUST NOT USED TO THEM AS I DON'T WEAR THEM OFTEN.
AFTER ALL, I'M A SCHOLAR

THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE.
YOU'RE SURE YOU DIDN'T DROP YOUR PEN WHEN YOU WENT TO THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY?

I'D NEVER FIND IT THAT WAY!
GO ON YOUR OWN!
ｵｵｴﾝ


THAT SOUNDS ANNOYING.
WELL, THEN, LET'S GO FIND IT.
FLY SO YOU CAN GET A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW!

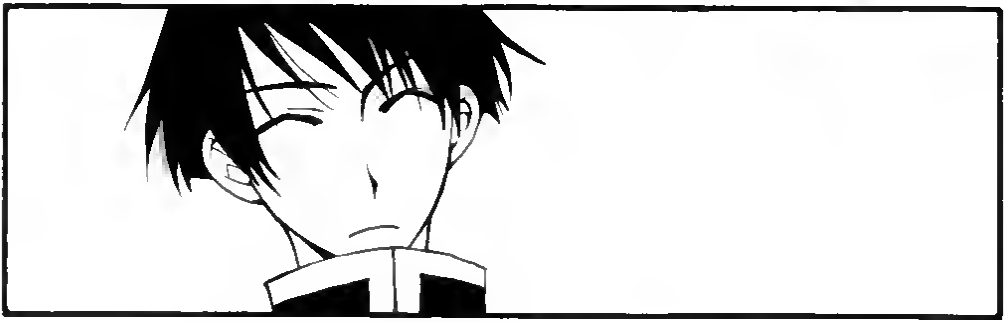
COME HOME TO PAPA!
OH, FOUNTAIN PEEEEN!
AW... WHERE'D IT GO?

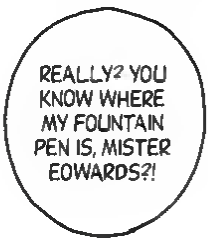
HMM? WELL, I DON'T NEED THEM, BUT I HEARD THAT GLASSES WERE MAGIC ITEMS THAT UPPED ONE'S IQ, SO I FIGURED I'D GET A PAIR.
SINCE WHEN DO YOU WEAR GLASSES, MISTER EDWARDS?
BUT THE MAJOR GENERAL SAYS I LOOK LIKE THE COMIC RELIEF!
HOW CRUEL! I SYM-PATHIZE.
SWEET, SWEET HAKAMA
MY NAME IS KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA! AND MY EYES ARE UP HERE, PAL!
MISTER EDWARDS!
In other words, Hotties in Spectacles.
HEH...
Like he's a proletariat student.
HEH
Uses books as his accessories.
Uses a white lab coat and the gesture of pushing his glasses with one quick slide up the nose. The glasses catch the light, and everyone melts.
Examples of "good glasses."
THE MAJOR GENERAL SAYS IT DEPENDS ON THE CHARACTER SO I GUESS SEEMINGLY "HUMBLE" GLASSES CAN BE VERY PROFOUND ON SOME PEOPLE
SIGH
ACK-YOU'RE RIGHT! MINAMOTO'S NO SURPRISE, BUT HARUKA LOOKS LIKE AN ENDEARING COLLEGE FLUNKY! IT'S LIKE MAGIC!

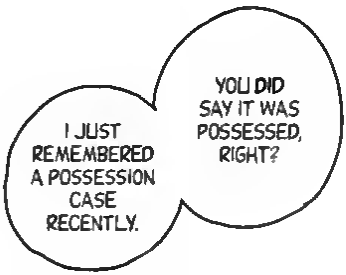
OH IS YOUR FOUNTAIN PEN AN ANTIQUE, KANTAROU-SAN?
YEAH. NUMATA-SENSEI GAVE IT TO ME.
ANYWAY, I'M ON A MISSION TO FIND MY SPIRIT-POSSESSED FOUNTAIN PEN GOOD-BYE

STOP! NO MORE! THE ENVY CONSUMES ME!
Beau-tiful
Little Girl in spectacles.
WHILE I'M AT IT...
But flawless, not even one hint of character.
Also known as Cute Little Four Eyes!

IF I DON'T HAVE IT, I CAN'T HAVE ANY...
THAT FOUNTAIN PEN..




REALLY? YOU KNOW WHERE MY FOUNTAIN PEN IS, MISTER EDWARDS?!


I JUST REMEMBERED A POSSESSION CASE RECENTLY.
YOU DID SAY IT WAS POSSESSED, RIGHT?

WHOEVER PUT ON THOSE GLASSES WAS INSTANTLY TRANSFORMED INTO "A GOOD GLASSES WEARER." THE PAIR OF GLASSES WAS THE STRONGEST LEGENDARY SPIRIT-POSSESSED ITEM I'VE EVER KNOWN
NO!
YES! I JUST REMEMBERED THAT THESE GLASSES ARE POSSESSED BY A SPIRIT!
WHAT?!
what are you talking about?
YES! WITH YOU ALONG, KANTAROU SAN I HAVEN'T A DOUBT WE'LL FIND THEM!
LET'S FIND THEM RIGHT AWAY, MISTER EDWARDS!
AND I SYMPA-THIZE
SOB
SOB
found it.
Heeey! Glaaasses! we're coming for yoooU!
I FEEL BAD FOR YOU.

END

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

tactics

Kantarou takes on a case of finding a missing person that leads him to an ironworking village affiliated with a mysterious organization called the Toratsugumi Society. But they soon find out this Society is bringing back dead people! Meanwhile, Raikou Minamoto reveals more of his plan...